

ACSM Certification Exam Requirements for All EXSS Students

EXSS students must take and pass the ACSM EP-C certification exam in EXSS 462 to fulfill the course requirements. The minimum score necessary to complete the course requirement is 500. (A score of 550 is necessary to obtain certification from ACSM).

Students who do not achieve the minimum score on the first attempt must retake the exam after paying the associated fee. Students who do not achieve the minimum score on the second attempt can retake the exam or appeal the course requirement.

Appeal process:

Students must take the exam at least two times before an appeal will be considered. To appeal the ACSM passing score requirement, students must write a justification as to why they should be exempted from the requirement. This justification is then submitted to the chair of the HHP department, or designee. Students must include official ACSM score reports from all exam attempts. All successful appeals must show an increase in score from their first attempt.

Most successful appeals will include one or all of these rationales:

1. Extenuating circumstance that impacted the exam result (i.e. admitted to hospital, family crisis, death in the family, etc.). Official documentation of the event will be required (i.e. doctor note, funeral notice, etc).
2. Demonstration of additional preparation to improve score (i.e. receipts for study guides, etc.)

The chair, or designee, will decide whether to accept or deny the appeal. The decision may include, but not limited to:

1. Retaking the exam.
2. Oral examination on the test sections failed.
3. Retake classes related to the sections of the test failed.
4. Write a paper on the test sections failed.
5. Waive the minimum score.

Taking a NSCA test:

Students who would like to take the NSCA CSCS exams may do so only by appeal to the chair, or designee, of the HHP department.

To request to take the NSCA test, rather than the ACSM requirement, students must write a justification as to why they should be allowed to take the NSCA test. The chair, or designee, will decide whether to allow the exception.

Students taking either NSCA exam will be required to achieve a 70% passing score to meet graduation requirements.

No other certification exams may be taken for this graduation requirement.