

The a-IPC™ Scholarship Initiative

Promoting accessibility to certification is a key pillar of CBIC's strategic plan. The CBIC® Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are giving away **150 free a-IPC™ examination registrations** for the **May 22-July 2, 2026** beta testing window.

During this testing period, candidates will take the updated version of the [a-IPC™ exam](#). Because this is a beta exam, results will not be released immediately; individual results will be released after psychometric analysis is complete.

Additionally, candidates will receive **complimentary 1-year online access** to the [APIC Learning System for a-IPC™](#), which includes comprehensive exam preparation materials built on a personalized study plan based on their strengths and gaps. These APIC-developed resources were created with input from CBIC-certified experts and built to match the exam content outline for the CBIC® a-IPC™ exam. Review materials* will be distributed electronically on **April 1, 2026**.

*Please note that review materials do not guarantee a passing exam score.

On **Monday, February 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM. EST**, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the [CBIC website](#). To register for the giveaway, you will need your *CBIC Record ID*. If you do not yet have a [CBIC account](#), please create one online, as registrations without a valid Record ID will not be considered. Exams will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so be ready to secure your spot as soon as registration opens. The first 150 individuals will be contacted by the first week of March with instructions on scheduling their exam appointment during the May 22-July 2, 2026 testing period.

KEY DATES

REGISTRATION OPENS	FEBRUARY 2, 2026
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NOTIFIED	EARLY MARCH
APIC STUDY MATERIALS PROVIDED	APRIL 1, 2026
TESTING WINDOW	MAY 22 - JULY 2, 2026

The a-IPC™ (Associate – Infection Prevention and Control) [certification](#) is an entry-level credential that validates foundational knowledge in infection prevention and control. It is intended for individuals who are new to the field or exploring a career in infection prevention, offering a structured way to demonstrate commitment, competence, and readiness to advance professionally. The exam is a high-stakes, proctored test consisting of 100 multiple-choice questions across eight content domains.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who should apply for this opportunity?

CBIC® encourages professionals who are new to the field of infection prevention and control (IPC) to apply as well as those who are considering a career in infection prevention and control or those who are working in IPC adjacent roles, such as sterile processing, environmental services or pharmacy.

2. When can I take the examination?

You can take the exam only during the May 22–July 2, 2026 testing window either at a Prometric testing center or via Prometric's live remote proctoring tool. To learn more testing with Prometric, please visit the [CBIC® website](#). Please note that exam appointments are first come first served.

3. What if I need to reschedule my appointment?

Rescheduling of exam appointments is managed through Prometric and is subject to fees put in place by our vendor.

4. I am not available during the May 22-July 2 testing window – can I still apply for this opportunity?

No. If you cannot take the exam during this testing window, we recommend applying later in the year when the exam reopens September 3, 2026. Examination fees will apply.

5. What do I need to know about the a-IPC™, exam process and what should I expect on exam day?

All beta testers should read the [CBIC Candidate Handbook](#) well in advance of their scheduled appointment.

6. What is a beta test and why is it important?

A beta test is a trial version of an exam that helps ensure it is fair, valid, and reliable before official launch. By participating in a beta test, candidates play an important role in refining the exam while gaining early exposure to the content, structure, and format.

7. Why won't I receive my results immediately and when will I receive them?

You don't receive your results immediately after completing the exam because the exam undergoes a thorough scoring and quality review process. This process ensures that your results are accurate, reliable, and consistent with CBIC's high standards for certification. While it can be difficult to wait, the careful scoring and quality checks protect the integrity of the exam and the value of your certification. The results will be available in approximately 60 days after the end of the testing window.

8. What are the benefits of the a-IPC™?

The a-IPC™:

- Strengthens your professional credibility,
- Builds confidence in your knowledge and understanding of infection prevention principles
- Serves as a steppingstone toward advanced certifications such as CIC®.
- Demonstrates to employers and colleagues your commitment and dedication to improving patient safety and quality of care.

9. I already hold the CIC® or LTC-CIP® credential, can I apply for this scholarship?

No, this scholarship opportunity is only available to those individuals without an existing CBIC® credential.