

Learn about the ASCS!

Where to Take the ASCS Exam

NADCA requires that all member companies have at least one certified Air Systems Cleaning Specialist (ASCS) on staff. Through ASCS certification, contractors demonstrate requisite knowledge of HVAC system cleaning, NADCA standards, OSHA regulations and more.

The ASCS designation is requested frequently from consumers, and is listed in the specifications for many commercial and industrial jobs. To obtain the ASCS certification, an individual is required to take and pass a multiple choice exam. This exam is available through several different outlets, including but not limited to NADCA testing centers, the [NADCA Annual Meeting & Exposition](#), and [the NADCA Technical Conference](#).

NADCA Testing Centers

The ASCS exam is available at testing centers throughout the world. The ASCS exam is not available online for first-time test takers or those who have let their ASCS certification lapse. (However, individuals who already hold the ASCS may renew it through online quizzes. This option is not available for ASCS candidates.)

Candidates taking the ASCS exam at a testing center must follow these steps:

If the [Member Promo Package](#) application has been submitted, you must still create an account in the test-taker's name, and the ASCS exam must be scheduled by a member of the NADCA staff.

Contact NADCA to schedule the exam when the account has been created.

- Visit the NADCA Testing Site here: <http://www.nadcatesting.com>.
- In the top right-hand corner of the page, click "Create a New Account."
- Fill out the company information. This section requires a "Member Security Code," which is provided upon submission of [the NADCA member application](#). If you have lost/misplaced the "Member Security Code," please call NADCA at (202) 737-2926.
- The blue bar across the middle of the NADCA Testing Site includes an option to "Register for a Test." Click this link to see all NADCA testing options. Choose the ASCS Exam by clicking the orange "Buy Now" box (\$385). This will open a page with testing center search options.
- For candidates with a non-member company, the ASCS exam must be scheduled in [the non-member area of the NADCA Testing Site](#). This link is at the bottom of the testing site homepage.
- Unless [the Member Promo Package](#) application has been submitted, payment must be made through the testing site with a valid Visa, MasterCard or American Express.



Click for enlarged screen shot of www.nadcatesting.com

Taking the ASCS at a NADCA Event

NADCA offers the ASCS exam at the [Annual Meeting & Expo](#) and the [Technical Conference](#). More detail is included in the registration brochures for each event. The Annual Meeting & Expo registration brochure is typically published in December. The Technical Conference brochure is typically published in May.

How much does the ASCS certification examination cost?

The cost of the examination is as follows:

| | Member | Non-Member |
|---|----------|------------|
| ASCS Exam | \$275.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| ASCS Exam Retake | \$150.00 | \$775.00 |
| ASCS Online (at standardized testing center) | \$385.00 | \$1,610.00 |
| ASCS Online Retake (at standardized testing center) | \$260.00 | \$885.00 |
| ASCS Prep Class | \$490.00 | \$690.00 |

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Prepare for the ASCS Exam

The ASCS examination tests the knowledge and skills needed to become successful in the HVAC inspection, maintenance and restoration industry. The subjects of the exam cover a range of topics, including indoor air quality, safety, mechanical, field experience, and the ability to correctly apply practical knowledge.

There are several ways to prepare for the examination:

The NADCA ASCS Candidate's Guide includes an outline of subject areas from which the test is based, a list of recommended reading materials, and a few sample questions similar to those given on the exam. [Click here for a free download of the ASCS Candidates Guide.](#)

In-Person Training

The ASCS Training & Preparation class includes eight hours of classroom instruction and a binder of study materials. This class is offered at the [NADCA Annual Meeting & Exposition](#) and the [NADCA Technical Conference](#). The ASCS exam is typically on the morning following completion of the ASCS Training & Preparation class.

ASCS Webinar

The ASCS Training & Preparation course is also available as an eight-hour Webinar. The Webinar is an ideal option for ASCS candidates who do not wish to travel, but would prefer to be taught by a live instructor. Please check [NADCA's training schedule](#) for dates and times of availability for the ASCS Webinar.

ASCS Online Course

The ASCS Online course enables training to be accessible online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Upon payment, access to the ASCS Online training is granted through the Internet, and users may complete the course at an individualized pace. Users have the ability to log-out of the course and return to it again at a later time. The online format enables NADCA to reduce the course time down to three hours (assuming the course runs uninterrupted).

The cost of the ASCS Online course is \$395 for members and pending applicants.

The cost of the ASCS Online course is \$595 for non-members.

This registration fee entitles users to access the course for a total of five hours, which allows extra time for reviewing the material. Registrants also receive an electronic copy of the slide presentation used for the ASCS Course (in PDF format), the NADCA Safety Manual, and other items that comprise the ASCS Study Materials.

[Click here to learn more about the ASCS Online Course.](#)

ASCS Study Materials CD

NADCA's ASCS Study Materials CD is available for those who do not wish to take the online or in-person classes, and would instead like to study the test materials on their own. DO NOT order this study CD if you have registered for the ASCS Online Course or the ASCS Training & Preparation Class, as these materials are provided upon registration for those classes.

This study CD includes the following publications: Introduction to HVAC System Cleaning Services; the latest version of the ACR Standard, and the NADCA Safety Manual. Member price: \$135 (List price: \$270).

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of ASCS certification?

ASCS certification enhances one's professional development and is also a world-wide credential recognizing a person's knowledge and skills relating to HVAC system hygiene.

Is the individual or the business ASCS certified?

NADCA's certification program certifies individuals, not companies. Certified individuals may use the credential in marketing their own expertise. Certification is not transferable to other individuals.

Any certified individual who changes companies must pay a fee to transfer their ASCS certification. The fee is \$375 if the new company is a NADCA member and \$1,610 if the new company is a non-NADCA member. Individuals have 30 days from their last day of employment to transfer. During the time NADCA is processing the transfer application, the ASCS certification is considered null and void.

[Click here for the ASCS Transfer Form.](#)

Who should become NADCA certified?

NADCA recommends at a minimum that an owner, principal, or key employee of a company become a certified an ASCS This individual must be a full-time employee, be directly responsible for project management, and should oversee all air duct cleaning projects. There is no limit to the number of company representatives who can become certified.

How was the ASCS certification examination developed?

The ASCS was developed in accordance with testing procedures created by the National Organization for Competency Assurance, under the close supervision of independent test development experts. These procedures included an industry-wide survey that gauged the frequency and proficiency of various techniques, subject matter areas, and general knowledge that contractors in the industry agreed are important for competent workmanship. [More information about NADCA's history is located here.](#)