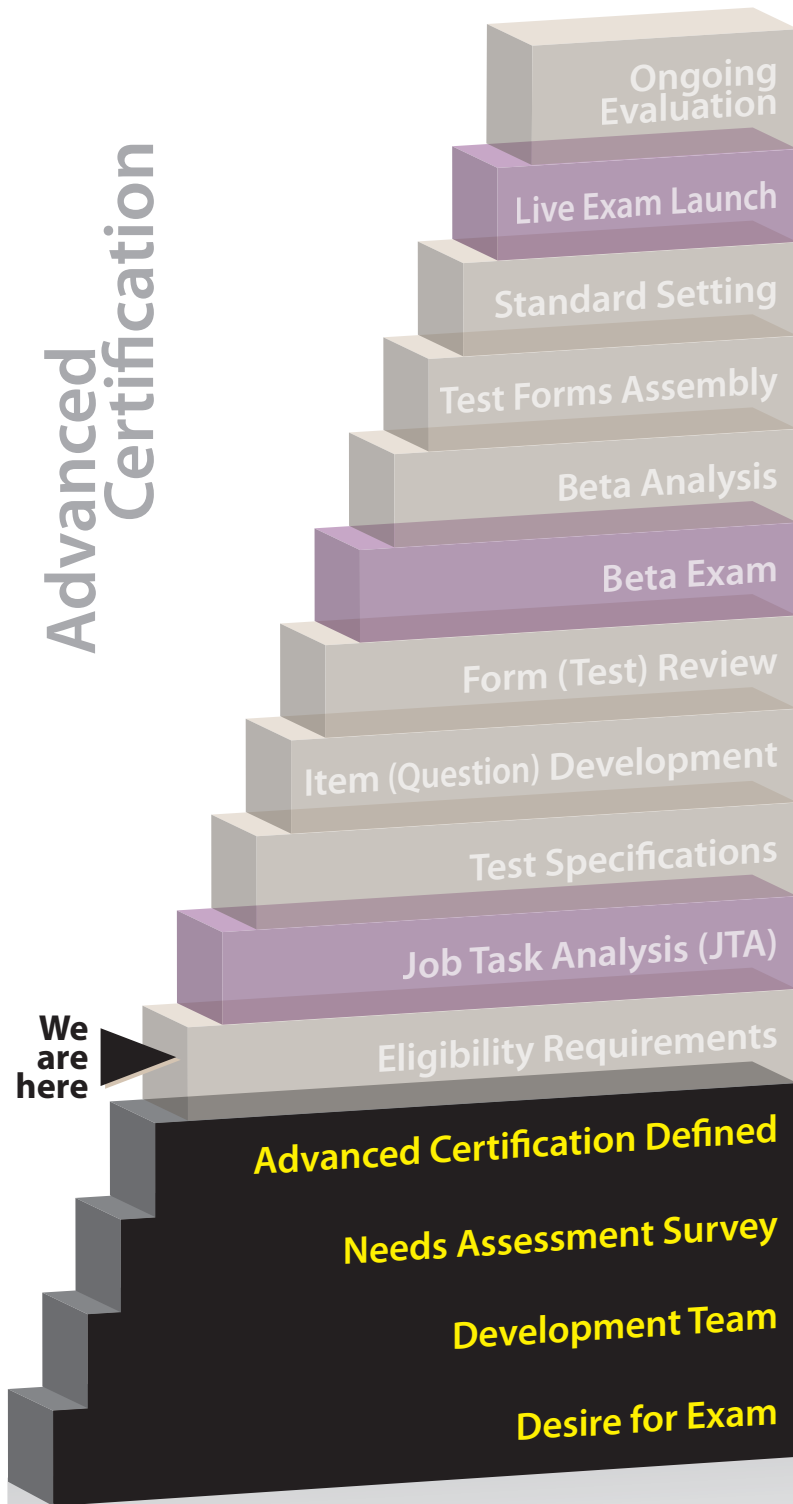


# NCBTMB Exam Development: Step-By-Step



**Ongoing Evaluation** - Continuous monitoring of the overall exam and individual question performance is critical to maintaining the quality of the test. NCBTMB, with the assistance of Pearson VUE, will regularly evaluate the exam using both candidate comments and psychometric data.

**Live Exam Launch** - NCBTMB's Advanced Certification Examination will be offered nationwide to all qualified candidates.

**Standard Setting** - The Standard Setting Subgroup will determine the passing scores – defining the *depth* of knowledge that candidates need to have. The passing scores will be based upon the minimum qualifications for competency as an advanced practitioner and the difficulty of the item pool. A report documenting the process will be available.

**Test Forms Assembly** - After the beta analysis is completed, the final exam forms will be created. Although NCBTMB uses multiple versions of its exams, they are designed to be psychometrically equivalent in terms of difficulty – meaning that one is not harder than another.

**Beta Analysis** - After the beta exam is completed, the responses and each question's statistical performance will be reviewed.

**Beta Exam** - The beta exam will be administered to a sample of the target population to gather data for statistical analyses.

**Form (Test) Review** - Using questions developed by the Item Writing Subgroup, a beta exam will be built according to the test specifications. The beta exam will be reviewed by a separate and independent Form Review Subgroup.

**Item (Question) Development** - The Item Writing Subgroup will work with other SMEs to develop questions for the exam. A separate and independent Item Review Subgroup will review and approve each question to ensure technical accuracy, clarity and relevance.

**Test Specifications** - Using results from the JTA, the Test Specifications Subgroup will develop the content outline for the exam and identify the percentage of questions to be included from each content area. This information will be posted on this website.

**Job Task Analysis (JTA)** - A JTA Survey will be drafted using the advanced practitioner profile defined by the Task Force. The survey will be made widely available, but responses will be separated through the use of screener questions.

**Eligibility Requirements** - The Eligibility Subgroup of the Task Force will establish eligibility requirements to sit for the Advanced Certification Exam based on peer feedback and Subject Matter Expert (SME) input.

**Advanced Certification Defined** - The Job Task Analysis Subgroup used the results from the Needs Assessment Survey to develop a profile of an advanced practitioner. This will be used to form the Job Task Analysis Survey that will further define the knowledge, skills and abilities such an individual must have.

**Needs Assessment Survey** - To ensure Advanced Certification represents the definition and type of credential called for by the massage community at large, a Needs Assessment Survey was sent to practitioners across the country. Nearly 7,000 people responded, and the results will be made public.

**Development Team** - A Steering Group was established, and it sent an open call for Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to form an Advanced Certification Task Force. Some 20 individuals were selected, representing a diverse range of education, modalities, regions, ethnicities, genders and cultures. Individually, they bring experience spanning from 8 to 30+ years.

**Desire for Exam** - Exam development began with an indication from the profession that an advanced credential was desired. Market research compiled over the past 12 years – including direct feedback from practitioners and educators – confirmed the industry wants an advanced certification exam.