



## **ACR Acceptable Use of Exam Data Policy — Examinations and Assessments**

1. **BACKGROUND.** ACR® develops, administers, and scores various examinations and assessment tests, as part of its educational mission. These instruments include those used to assess educational progress, such as the diagnostic radiology (DXIT™) and radiation oncology (TXIT™) in-training examinations; and those used to assess course participation and completion knowledge, such as those included during or at the conclusion of various online and in-person courses. As such, it becomes important to articulate how examination related data can and should be used, especially considering requests from outside parties for examination related score data. The intent is to provide guidance for staff, committees, etc., concerning the acceptable use of examination data in fulfilling their duties.
  
2. **TYPES OF EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT DATA.** In the context of occupational and educational testing, there are three general types of data that result from the ongoing administration of examinations and assessments:
  - a. *Score Data.* This data includes raw, percent, percentile rank and/or scaled score information for individuals, institutions or test populations.
  - b. *Status Data.* This typically takes the form of passing and failing rates among a particular testing population for a given assessment or test.
  - c. *Psychometric Data.* This includes various kinds of statistical information which is calculated to determine how an examination instrument is performing, and how each item comprising that instrument is performing. The primary purpose of this information is to ensure that a particular instrument is measuring the cognitive traits (or knowledge, skills and abilities) it is intended to measure, and is usually gathered into an Item Analysis Report containing a summary of test statistics, a test frequency distribution, an item quintile table, and item statistics.
  
3. **POLICIES**
  - a. *Score Data.* For ACR norm referenced examinations (i.e., educational tests), such as the in-training examinations, institutional and population score data will be provided to residency Program Directors for the purpose of assessing individual resident progress and for self-evaluation of the Institution's educational programs. This data shall also be made available, upon request, by such ACR committees or bodies tasked with the development and administration of the examination for the sole purpose of performing their tasked mandates and for ensuring the quality of the examinations. Additionally, Program Directors will be encouraged to share individual score data with residents.

For course participation and completion assessments, score data shall be made available, upon request, by such ACR committees or bodies tasked with the development and administration of the courses in question for the sole purpose of performing their tasked mandates and for ensuring the quality of the courses or educational activities.



Due to the significant potential for the misuse or misinterpretation of test score data, it shall not be provided for any other purposes or entities than those described above.

- b. *Status Data.* For ACR competency examinations, pass/fail status data shall be provided solely to individual test takers. Additionally, failing candidates shall be provided diagnostic data to give the test taker information that can be used to help the test taker remediate performance and to guide future study plans.

Additionally, status data shall also be made available, upon request, by such ACR committees or bodies tasked with the development and administration of the examination for the sole purpose of performing their tasked mandates and for ensuring the quality of the examinations or assessments.

In general, pass/fail data or rates will not be published or made publicly available by ACR, except for specific educational or similar purpose deemed to be appropriate by the appropriate governing committee.

- c. *Psychometric Data.* Psychometric data is created as part of the ongoing assessment of how ACR examinations are performing and to ensure ACR testing instruments meet testing industry standards appropriate for the type of instrument in question. Accordingly, psychometric data shall be made only available, upon request, by such ACR committees or bodies tasked with the development and administration of the examination for the sole purpose of performing their tasked mandates and for ensuring the quality of the examinations or assessments.

For reasons of test security, and due to the significant potential for the misuse or misinterpretation of these types of measurement statistical characteristics, psychometric data will not be published or made publicly available by ACR.