

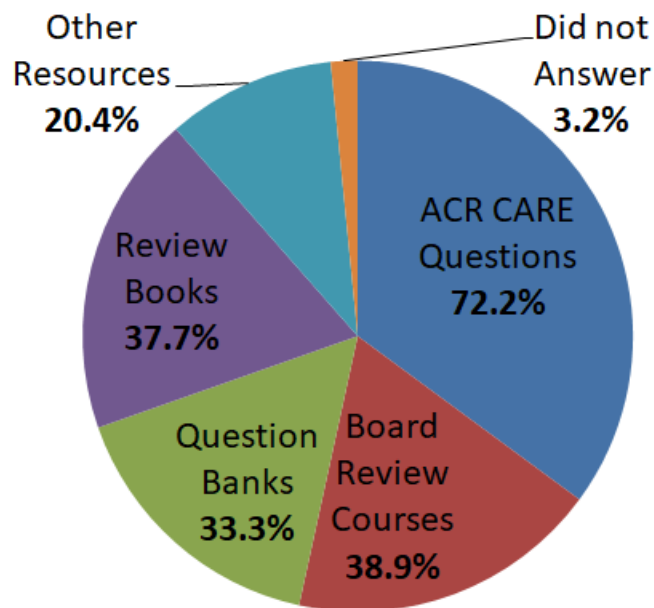
American College of Rheumatology

2017 Fellows' Board Preparation Survey

In the spring of 2017, the ACR Fellows-In-Training (FIT) Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the ACR Committee on Training and Workforce (COTW) Issues, surveyed recently graduated fellows-in-training ($N=162$) in order to gather data about their experiences during fellowship.

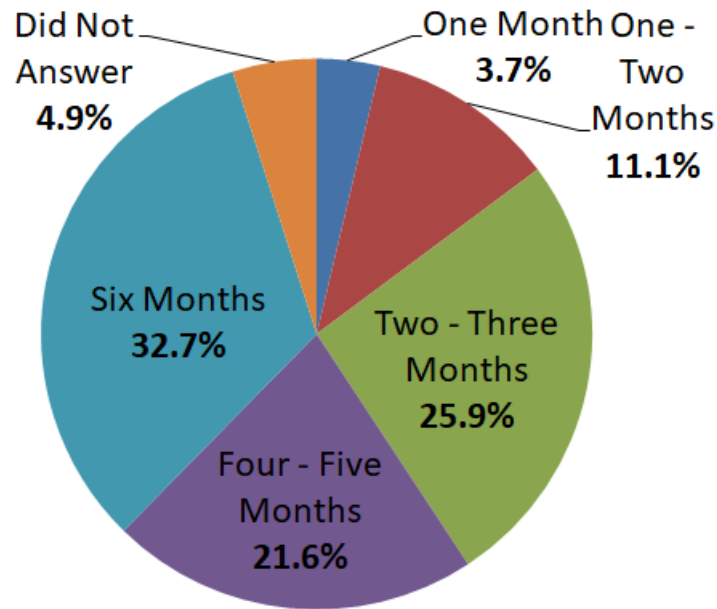
The results of the survey showed that 72.2% of fellows utilized the ACR CARE modules to prepare for the boards, 38.9% used Review Books, 37.7% participated in Board Review Courses, and 33.3% use other question banks. Other resources fellows identified using includes ABP Content Outline, Cassidy & Petty Textbook, Rheumatology Secrets Textbook, ACR Image Library, Primer on Rheumatology Textbook, and their individual notes.

Resources Used to Prepare for the Boards
($N = 162$)



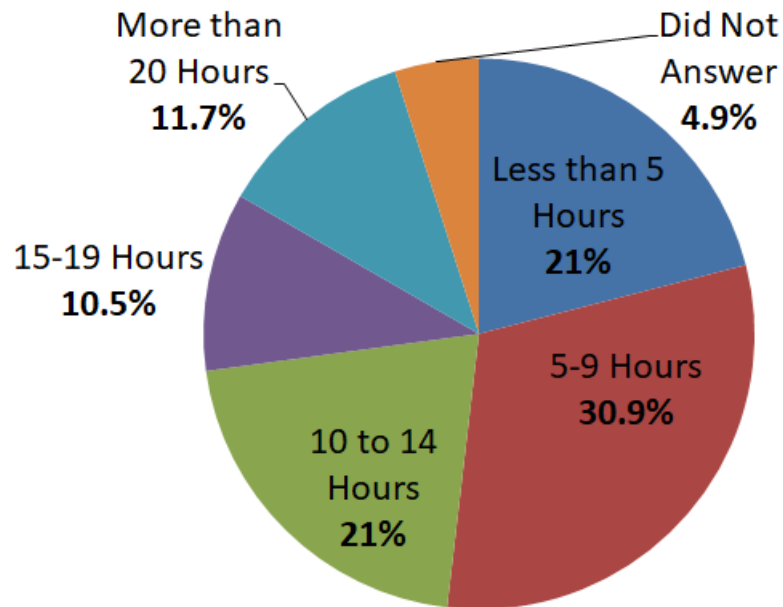
The results of the survey also showed that 32.7% started studying 6 months prior to taking the exam, 21.6% started studying 4-5 months prior, 25.9% started studying 2-3 months prior, and 11.1% started studying 1-2 months prior. Less than 4.0% indicated they started studying only one month prior.

**When Fellows-in-Training Started Studying
Prior to Taking the Exam
(N = 162)**



In regards to hours spent preparing for the exam, the results of the survey showed that 11.7% of fellows-in-training studied more than 20 hours per week, 10.5% studied 15 to 19 hours per week, 21.0% studied for 10 to 14 hours, 30.9% studied for 5 to 9 hours per week, and 21.0% studied less than 5 hours per week.

**Hours Spent Per Week Studying for the Boards
(N = 162)**



Lastly, 93.2% of fellows-in-training indicated that they passed the rheumatology board examination on their first attempt.

Of all resources used, fellows identified the following as resources they would highly recommend:

- ACR CARE Questions
 - <https://www.rheumatology.org/Learning-Center/Educational-Activities>
- ACR Image Library
 - <https://www.rheumatology.org/Learning-Center/Educational-Activities/Rheumatology-Image-Library>
- Rheumatology Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Courses
- Rheumatology Textbook by Marc Hochberg, Alan J. Silman, Josef Smolen, Michael Weinblatt, Michael Weisman
- Textbook of Pediatric Rheumatology by James Cassidy, Ross Petty
- Rheumatology Secrets Textbook by Sterling West
- Rheumatology Board Review Course at University of California in San Francisco (UCSF)
- The Brigham Board Review in Rheumatology Program
- Brigham Audio CD for Board Review
- American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Online Modules in Rheumatology
- YouTube Topic Videos
- Harvard Board Review DVDs