



RQAP Open Forum

3 February 2026



Welcome and Updates

State of the Program

- RQAP-GCPs: 287
- RQAP-GLP: 494
- Both RQAP-GCP and RQAP-GLP: 27
- Average passing rate for the life of each exam:
 - GCP – 71%
 - GLP – 70%
- Average number of candidates each cycle:
 - GCP – 29
 - GLP – 46



Review of Exam Eligibility

- In order to be eligible to sit for the RQAP Exam, you must have:
 - 2+ years of full-time GCP or GLP Quality Assurance experience and a Bachelor's degree

OR

- 4+ years of full-time GCP or GLP Quality Assurance experience



Review of Exam Eligibility

- What does “full-time QA experience” mean?
 - Your role is 100% QA focused, or the sum of your QA experience is equal to a full-time role (e.g., if your role is 50% QA, then you would need 4 years in this role with a Bachelor’s degree, or 8 years in this role without a Bachelor’s degree)
 - Audits/inspections of processes required by GCP or GLP (e.g., CSV, informed consent, test/investigational product accountability, AEs, study reports, vendor activities, clinical sites, etc.)
 - SOP writing, review and overall management
 - Analyzing, evaluating & advising in matters related to GCP or GLP



Review of Exam Eligibility

- What does not count?
 - Experience in GCP and/or GLP does not equate to QA experience (e.g., working as a CRA or a Study Director)
- Why is that the requirement?
 - Exams are designed to test not only base knowledge but also, the application of QA principles to practical situations
 - Exams require more than just knowing the subject matter contained in the reference materials; studying the regulations without QA experience is not enough



Cost to Take the Exam

(subject to change at any time)

- Non-member: \$625
- Member of an [MoU organization](#): \$535
- SQA member: \$450
- Resident of Outreach Country: \$150

SQA considers Outreach Countries to be those classified as low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income [as defined by the World Bank](#) (also known as LMICs). Residents of Outreach Countries can also apply for complimentary membership in SQA as [Outreach Members](#).

Additional:

- Late fee: \$50
- Non-native English speaker accommodations: \$50

Disability accommodations offered at no cost



Exam Delivery Options:

- **Testing Center** – *recommended if possible; visit test center location to take exam on their computer*
- **OnVue** – *remote proctored exam from your home or office; higher incidence rate of exam termination*
 - Live-proctored – someone watches you take the exam via webcam
 - Many requirements both for technology and testing space (see details on website)
 - Not possible in some countries due to technology laws (check website)
 - No dictionary accommodations for non-native English speakers



Exam Development: How are the RQAP exams created?

- Two Exam Committees, one GCP and one GLP
- Job Task Analysis
- Content Outline based on results
- Exam items written/selected to fulfill Content Outline
- Passing Score Study
- Exams administered
- Item analysis
- More exam items written, reviewed, and pilot tested regularly
- *RQAPs can earn re-registration credits for being appointed to an exam committee, the re-registration committee or writing exam items*



How can I prepare for the RQAP exam?

- Experience Is Key: We require at least two years of experience because the exam is not designed to be passed through study alone.
- Candidate Resource Page
 - RQAP Candidate Handbook: Content Outline and Exam References
 - Practice Exams: GCP and GLP
 - RQAP Candidate Connect Forums: GCP and GLP
 - Study Group Recordings: GCP and GLP



RQAP Re-Registration

- 1 hour of education=1 unit
- Other activities awarded units as described in SOP/on website
- Total number is 48 units every 3 years (24 discipline specific)
- Submit everything online! Yes, you may have to wait for approval as our ***volunteer*** Re-registration Committee reviews activities, but we will be in touch if we need more from you.
 - Your best chance of a quick approval is thorough documentation
- You can re-register without paying for any conferences or training courses! It's harder, but it can be done!



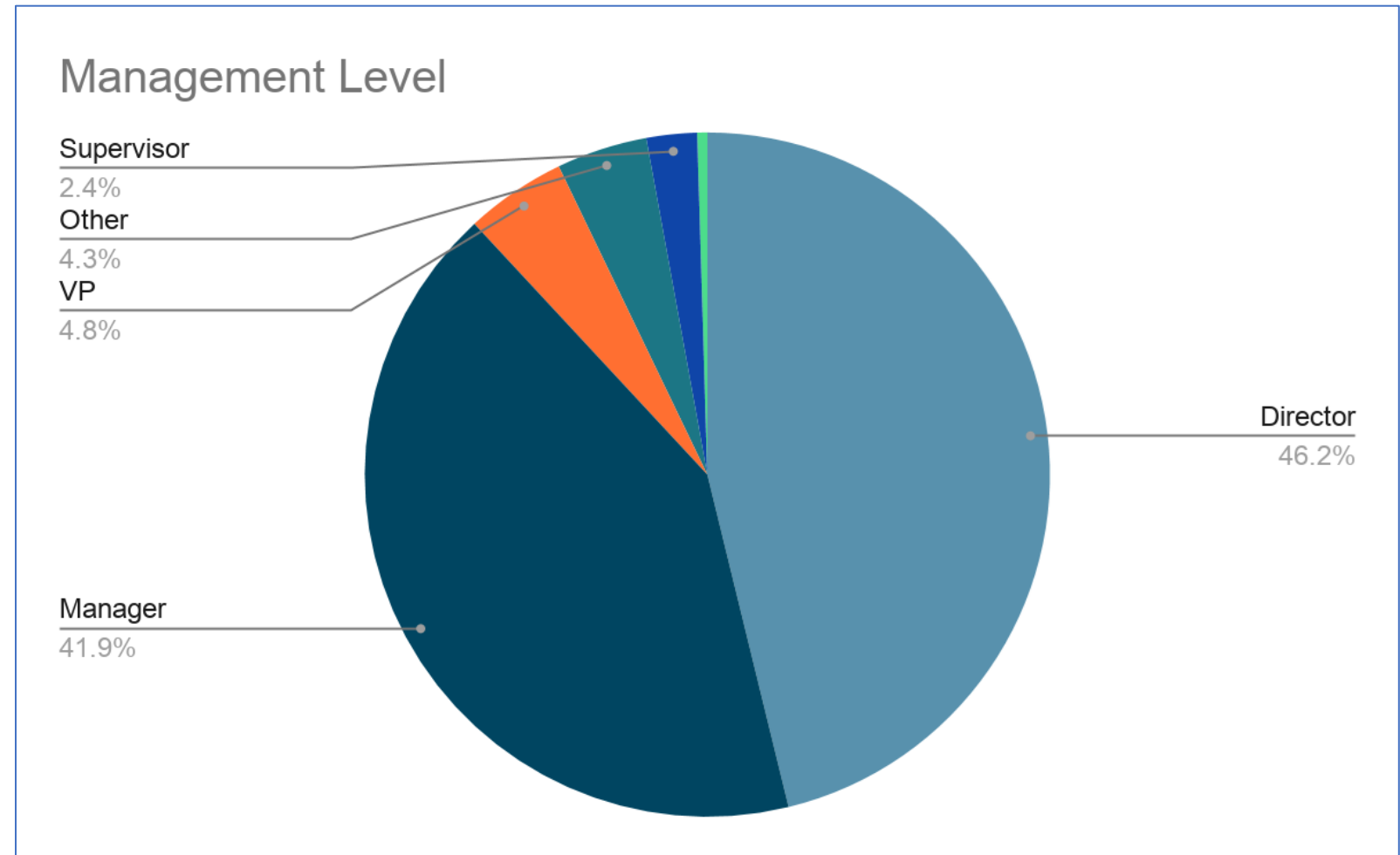
Low- or No-Cost Re-Registration Activities

- In-house training by your organization (except for SOP training)
- Present a webinar, conference session, etc.
- Attend a webinar (SQA's are free to members)
- Serve on an elected or appointed board or committee (or RRT/TF)
- Serve as a volunteer committee or Specialty Section chair/vice chair
- Write an article/publication
- Mentoring Program, as a Mentor or a Mentee
- Review conference abstracts
- Help with exam development activities



Does Anyone Care If I Am an RQAP? We asked...

RQAP Program
Survey of
Management
210 respondents



This Is What They Said....

Top Benefits of QA Employees Holding RQAP

- Confirms that an employee has a working knowledge of the necessary regulations and tasks of a QA professional (76.19%)
- Serves as a good goal for QA employees to continue their professional growth and knowledge (69.05%)
- Contributes to a strong, knowledgeable and reliable QA function within the organization (61.43%)
- Increases the confidence that current and future clients have in the work we do (42.86%)
- Provides justification to keep our QA employees trained and well-educated (because they need continuing education hours to renew their credential) (42.86%)



What benefits do Registrants see from the RQAP credential?

- We asked 144 Registrants to rate how much the credential benefited them on a scale of 1 (not helpful) to 5 (extremely helpful):
 - Being **hired for or promoted to the job you wanted** (*55% rated the credential as 4 or 5*)
 - One respondent noted "senior positions require the credential" at their organization.
 - Earning a **higher salary than without the credential** (*39% rated the credential as 4 or 5*)
 - Helps "force" the Registrant to **complete continuing education**. (*79% rated the credential as 4 or 5*)
 - **57%** of respondents' companies paid for continuing education fees to maintain the RQAP credential.



Check Out the Website (Especially the FAQ!)

- Lots of commonly asked questions are addressed on the website
- Quick links:
 - GCP exam: sqa.org/rqap-gcp
 - GLP exam: sqa.org/rqap-glp
 - Re-registration: sqa.org/rqap-rereg
 - FAQ: sqa.org/rqap-faq
- More questions? Email rqap@sqa.org any time!



Any Questions?

