



November, 2019

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How to Prepare for Your Next ABFAS Examination

Last month, many of you received your In-training Examination (ITE) scores. What is your next step in the ABFAS examination process?

Final-year Residents

Final year residents should register for the Spring 2020 Part I Board Qualification exams. Registration is open now.

Part I Board Qualification Exams Important Dates

February 26, 2020 – Registration Closes
March 4, 2020 – Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty
March 11, 2020 – Exam Date

PGY 1 & 2 (and PGY-3 in a 4-year Residency Program)

Starting in September of 2020, the ITE will change, depending on your residency program year.

Starting next Fall, PGY 1 & 2 (and PGY 3 in 4-year programs) will take a new In-training Exam that have separate Foot Surgery and RRA Surgery components.

- Foot Surgery Didactic – 80 Items
- Foot Surgery CBPS – 8 Cases
- RRA Surgery Didactic – 80 Items
- RRA Surgery CBPS – 8 Cases

As of September 2020, final year residents will take a new ITE. The ITE for final-year residents will have:

- Foot Surgery Didactic – 80 Items
- Foot Surgery CBPS – 12 Cases
- RRA Surgery Didactic – 80 Items
- RRA Surgery CBPS – 12 Cases

Candidates will be able to use their final year ITE passing scores for Board Qualification purposes upon payment of a qualification fee, which could save candidates time and hundreds of dollars.

Preparing for Your Part I Qualification Exams or Next Year's In-Training

So, what's next? If you were happy with your ITE score....or you would like to do better next time, ABFAS provides materials for candidates to better prepare for both the ITE or the Part I Qualification examinations. All of these materials are available on ABFAS.org

Here are the tools that all residents should use to prepare for ABFAS didactic and CBPS exams.

Didactic Online Study Guide

The [Online Study Guide](#) will help you prepare for the didactic sections of the ITE and Part I Qualification exams. This guide will walk you through all areas of the didactic exams – scoring, results, and adaptive testing. Included in the Study Guide are Foot Surgery and RRA Surgery didactic practice exams, which all ITE and Part I candidates should take at least once.

Online CBPS Practice Exam

This practice exam is designed to help you become more familiar with the functions and navigations of the ITE and Part I Qualification CBPS exams. However, waiting until test day to learn how the exam functions could result in lost time and frustration, so candidates should take this practice exam until they feel confident about how to approach the exam.

It is very important to become familiar with the following functions before your exam:

- Searching the list of sections.
- Making selections.
- Navigating from tab to tab.
- Viewing and zooming images.

Access to the [CBPS practice exam](#) is unlimited and the more times you practice, the more familiar you will become with the user interface and how the CBPS system responds to entries. This will save you time on each case and will allow you to focus on the content of the case and not on how the exam works.

Watch the CBPS Exam Video

ABFAS has developed a video with tips on navigating the CBPS exam, answers to common questions, and how to approach the exam. Be sure to watch this video, "[Navigating the CBPS Exam](#)" before exam day.

Part I Board Qualification Document

This [document](#) provides information on the Spring 2020 Part I Board Qualification exams including exam structure, exam preparation, scoring, registration, scheduling, and what to expect on exam day.

Proper Logging in PRR

Logging can be tricky. ABFAS provides you with a list of common PRR logging errors, so please ensure you are using the proper procedure codes when logging in PRR.

Understanding proper logging is critical as you may continue to log cases after residency in preparation for ABFAS Case Review. Mislogging is one of the major reasons candidates fail case review.

Below is an updated list of common logging errors you should know now:

- 1) A Lisfranc fracture ORIF or arthrodesis is not considered a rearfoot procedure. A lisfranc fracture ORIF should be logged as 4.13 (Open management of tarsometatarsal fracture/dislocation) and a lisfranc joint arthrodesis is logged as 4.15 (tarsometatarsal fusion). Please note: "Midfoot" joint(s) refers to any joint proximal to, and not including, tarsometatarsal/lisfranc joint.
- 2) A Lapidus bunionectomy is a first ray procedure and should only be logged as 2.1.6 (bunionectomy with first metatarsocuneiform fusion) or 2.2.5 (joint salvage with first metatarsocuneiform fusion) or 2.3.3 (metatarsocuneiform fusion, other than for hallux valgus or hallux limitus).
- 3) A Haglund's deformity where the posterior heel exostosis is shaved (without detaching and reattaching a major portion of the Achilles tendon) should be logged as 4.1 (partial ostectomy). If the removal of the bone spur includes detachment and reattachment of the Achilles, you must use 4.19.
- 4) Plastic surgery does not include simple wound debridement and synthetic/biological graft application.
- 5) A Kidner procedure should be logged either as 5.1.6 (tendon augmentation/supplementation/restoration) or 3.1 (excision of ossicle). Removal of any ossicle such as os peroneum, os navicularis, os trigonum should only be logged as 3.1.
- 6) If a joint salvage procedure with cheilectomy only is incorrectly logged as a joint salvage procedure with distal metatarsal osteotomy.
- 7) Open management of fracture or metatarsophalangeal joint (MTP) dislocation cases must include internal or external fixation.
- 8) In cases where a subchondroplasty procedure is performed as part of another procedure, only the index procedure must be logged. For example, a talar dome or distal tibial subchondroplasty may only be logged as:
 - 5.2.7 open management of talar dome lesion (with or without osteotomy)
 - 5.2.8 ankle arthroscopy with removal of loose body or other osteochondral debridement

If subchondroplasty is performed in isolation, the appropriate logging mandates use of one of the following subcategories:

- 1.13 other osseous digital procedure not listed above
- 2.3.10 other first ray procedure not listed above
- 4.18 other osseous procedures not listed (distal to the tarsometatarsal joint)
- 5.2.11 other elective reconstructive rearfoot/ankle osseous surgery not listed above



Register Now for the March 11, 2020 Board Qualification Exams

The March 11, 2020 Part I Qualification exam registration is now open. Available exams are Part I Foot Surgery Didactic, Part I Foot Surgery CBPS, Part I RRA Surgery Didactic, and Part I RRA Surgery CBPS Part I exams.

Register and pay for your exam now. To get started, [log in](#) to the ABFAS website with your ABFAS username and password. If you have forgotten your username or password, [please click here](#).

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Join us!

In 2020, ABFAS will be attending conferences across the country. If you're attending, we welcome you to stop by our booth where you can ask questions about ABFAS exams and the certification process and pick up a special gift!

ABFAS will also be presenting at many of these conferences. Please follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn for more information about these special presentations.

We hope to see you at the following conferences:

Florida Podiatric Medical Association Science & Management Symposium

January 15 – 18, 2020
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

New York State Podiatric Medical Association/ Foundation for Podiatric Medicine

January 24 – 26, 2020
New York Marriott Marquis
New York, New York

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Scientific Conference

February 19 – 22, 2020
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX

Midwest Podiatry Conference

April 29 – May 2, 2020
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

The Western Foot and Ankle Conference

June 25 – 28, 2020
Disneyland Hotel and Convention Center
Anaheim, CA

APMA - The National

July 23 – 25, 2020
Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center
Boston, MA

American Society of Podiatric Surgeons (ASPS)

September 25 – 26, 2020
Chicago, IL

Residents and Residency Directors are #footfirst

Send in your photos of residents studying, performing cases, interacting with feet, performing on feet, or even just hanging out with other residents.

Send your best photos to footfirst@abfas.org so we can share them on social media, in our newsletters, AND our new website! We will select a monthly winner with the best photo who will receive a great ABFAS prize and recognition on our Facebook page. Don't forget to share your photos using #footfirstABFAS

Safe Sender

ABFAS would like all communication to find it to your inbox. Please add info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your safe sender list to assure that all of our emails arrive in your "new emails" inbox and not in "spam."

Since 1975, ABFAS' mission is to protect and improve the health and welfare of the public by the advancement of the art and science of foot and ankle surgery.

ABFAS.org

