

ABFAS 500

Examination Blueprints *(Revised Classification)*



American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®

445 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA 94117-3404

(415) 553-7800
FAX (415) 553-7801
info@abfas.org

October 2017

ABFAS 500

Examination Blueprints

(Revised Classification)

Table of Contents

I. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION	2
II. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION.....	3
III. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION	4
IV. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION.....	5
V. SURGICAL IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION	6
VI. RECERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION.....	7
VII. RECERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION	8
VIII. SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION	9
IX. DIDACTIC EXAMINATION MAJOR SUBJECT AREA DEFINITIONS.....	10
X. WRITTEN EXAMINATION SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS.....	13

I. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part I of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination consists of didactic questions and Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) cases. It measures the knowledge, skills, and judgment of individuals who intend to enter the Foot Surgery certification process.

Test Specifications: Part I of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination tests the clinical knowledge and treatment skills acquired during an approved podiatric surgical residency. The examination contains a maximum of 125 didactic and 10 CBPS cases.

Examination Content Map

Part I Didactic		Part I CBPS	
Major Subject Area	%	Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	0	A. Physical Examination	25
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10	B. Diagnostic Procedures/Labs/Imaging	25
C. Differential Diagnosis	0	C. Diagnosis	25
D. Surgical Principles	20	D. Treatment (application of surgical principles and medical management to determine treatment of patient)	25
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	20		
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20		
G. Complications	20		
H. General Medical	10		
TOTAL:	100	TOTAL:	100
		<p><u>CBPS Subject Area Content Map</u></p> <p>Cases may include any one of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Trauma 2) Deformities/Biomechanics 3) Medicine/Perioperative Management (infections/metabolic disease/arthritis disorders/emergency medicine) 4) Complications/Revisions 5) Neoplastic Disorders 6) Neurovascular Disorders 7) Congenital Disorders/Pediatrics 	

II. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part I of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination consists of didactic questions and Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) cases. It measures the knowledge, skills, and judgment of individuals who intend to enter the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery certification process.

Test Specifications: Part I of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination tests the knowledge and treatment skills specific to reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery acquired during an approved advanced podiatric surgical residency. The examination contains a maximum of 125 didactic and 10 CBPS cases.

Examination Content Map

Part I Didactic		Part I CBPS	
Major Subject Area	%	Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	0	A. Physical Examination	25
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	15	B. Diagnostic Procedures/Labs/Imaging	25
C. Differential Diagnosis	0	C. Diagnosis	25
D. Surgical Principles	20	D. Treatment (application of surgical principles and medical management to determine treatment of patient)	25
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	25		
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20		
G. Complications	20		
TOTAL:	100	TOTAL:	100
		<u>CBPS Subject Area Content Map</u> Cases may include any one of the following areas: 1) Trauma 2) Deformities/Biomechanics 3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritis disorders/emergency medicine) 4) Complications/Revisions 5) Neoplastic Disorders 6) Neurovascular disorders 7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics	

III. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part II of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination measures the clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with an individual’s ability to integrate academics with surgical experience.

Test Specifications: Part II of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination consists of 12 CBPS cases. The questions encompass the diagnostic and perioperative care of the entire foot and ankle. The intraoperative content focuses on surgery of the **entire foot and ankle**, with the exception of reconstructive rearfoot/ankle procedures.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Physical Examination	25
B. Diagnostic Procedures/Labs/Imaging	25
C. Diagnosis	25
D. Treatment (application of surgical principles and medical management to determine treatment of patient)	25
TOTAL	100%
CBPS Subject Area Content Map	
Cases may include any one of the following areas:	
1) Trauma 2) Deformities/Biomechanics 3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritis disorders/emergency medicine) 4) Complications/Revisions 5) Neoplastic Disorders 6) Neurovascular disorders 7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics	

IV. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part II of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination measures the clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with an individual’s ability to integrate academics with surgical experience in the specific area of Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery.

Test Specifications: Part II of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination consists of 16 CBPS cases. Questions involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient pertaining to reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Physical Examination	25
B. Diagnostic Procedures/Labs/Imaging	25
C. Diagnosis	25
D. Treatment (application of surgical principles and medical management to determine treatment of patient)	25
TOTAL	100%
CBPS Subject Area Content Map	
Cases may include any one of the following areas:	
1) Trauma 2) Deformities/Biomechanics 3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritis disorders/emergency Medicine) 4) Complications/Revisions 5) Neoplastic Disorders 6) Neurovascular disorders 7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics	

V. SURGICAL IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Surgical In-training Examination consists of didactic and Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) cases. The examination assesses the podiatric resident’s current level of knowledge and provides an educational experience to the resident.

Test Specifications: The Surgical In-training Examination tests, with an academic emphasis, the clinical knowledge acquired during a podiatric residency training program. The examination contains a maximum of 125 didactic and 10 CBPS cases.

Examination Content Map

Part I Didactic		Part I CBPS	
Major Subject Area	%	Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	0	A. Physical Examination	25
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10	B. Diagnostic Procedures/Labs/Imaging	25
C. Differential Diagnosis	0	C. Diagnosis	25
D. Surgical Principles	20	D. Treatment (application of surgical principles and medical management to determine treatment of patient)	25
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	20		
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20		
G. Complications	20		
H. General Medical	10		
TOTAL:	100	TOTAL:	100
		<u>CBPS Subject Area Content Map</u> Cases may include any one of the following areas: 1) Trauma 2) Deformities/Biomechanics 3) Medicine/Perioperative Management (infections/metabolic disease/arthritis disorders/emergency medicine) 4) Complications/Revisions 5) Neoplastic Disorders 6) Neurovascular Disorders 7) Congenital Disorders/Pediatrics	

VI. RECERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Recertification Examination in Foot Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice of foot surgery.

Test Specifications: The Recertification Examination in Foot Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Intraoperative technical aspects include reconstructive and non-reconstructive procedures of the forefoot and non-reconstructive procedures of the rearfoot. The examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. The examination contains a maximum of 125 questions.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	10
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	15
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	15
G. Complications	15
H. General Medical	10
TOTAL:	100

VII. RECERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Recertification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice.

Test Specifications: The Recertification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient who requires reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures. The examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. The examination consists of a maximum of 125 questions.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	25
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
G. Complications	20
TOTAL:	100

VIII. SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Self-assessment Examination assesses the podiatric surgeon's current level of knowledge (strengths and weaknesses). The examination provides an educational experience to the surgeon.

Test Specifications: The Self-assessment Examination involves diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Like the recertification examinations, this examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. However, because the self-assessment examination also serves as an educational tool, newer or more focused content areas may be included. The examination contains a maximum of 125 questions.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	10
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	15
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	15
G. Complications	15
H. General Medical	10
TOTAL:	100

NOTE: The examination includes at least 25% RRA content.

IX. DIDACTIC EXAMINATION MAJOR SUBJECT AREA DEFINITIONS

A. Problem-focused History and Physical

History and Physical questions involve the technique, the pertinent elements, and the interpretation of the history and physical examination, including questions that:

- interpret findings of the history and physical examination.
- ask for a diagnosis from a particular examination element.
- ask for the pertinence of a particular examination.
- involve non-lower extremity pathology.
- list multiple findings of a history and physical examination and ask for a diagnosis.
- pertain to pathoanatomy, pathomechanics, and/or pathophysiology.

B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging

These questions focus on the interpretation of specific studies. They are limited to the diseases, disorders, and conditions of the **lower extremity**. Questions that are not lower extremity oriented should be in the general medicine category. Questions may include laboratory studies, imaging, or other diagnostic studies that will lead to a diagnosis or differential, including questions that require a diagnosis from a specific imaging study.

C. Differential Diagnosis

Differential diagnosis questions include any question that asks for a differential diagnosis based on multiple elements, including history and physical, and diagnostic studies. Classification system questions are also included. Questions include those that:

- ask for a diagnosis based on multiple elements.
- require arrival at a specific classification.
- specify a classification system and ask to identify the parameters of that system.
- list findings of a study or studies with no imaging study shown and ask for a diagnosis.

D. Surgical Principles

Surgical principles focus on general principles applied to surgery. Questions may apply to preoperative, intraoperative, or postoperative decision-making or management, but **not as related to a specific procedure**. These principles are standard to all surgical disciplines and applicable to podiatric surgery.

E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques

Questions in this category deal with the intraoperative aspects of **specific** surgical procedures. Typical questions may include items related to:

- anatomy that is encountered and surgically altered
- incision placement and dissection technique
- orientation of bone cuts
- selection and application of fixation devices and bioimplants
- placement and fixation of tissue transfers
- selection and application of closure materials, drains, and surgical dressings.
- relevant (normal or abnormal) anatomy encountered and surgically altered during the performance of a surgical procedure
- complications that are assessed and/or managed intraoperatively.

F. Procedural Perioperative Management

Questions in this category are procedure-specific and preoperative or postoperative in nature (not intraoperative), and include those that:

- provide findings and ask for selection of a specific procedure
- regard postoperative management of a specific procedure
- require a surgical management decision.

G. Complications

Questions in this category are limited to postoperative or post-traumatic conditions and must be procedure or injury specific.

- Subject categories are all-inclusive and may deal with diagnosis and/or treatment.
- Questions address the identification and/or management of lower extremity procedure-specific postoperative complications should be moved to the complications category.

H. General Medicine

Questions cover all general medical diagnostics and treatments exclusive of lower extremity pathology and include:

- Medical Management. Includes diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions, exclusive of the lower extremity.
- Interpretation of the history and physical examination and diagnostic studies relating to non-lower extremity pathology.
- Anesthesia. Includes local, regional, spinal, epidural, IV sedation, and general anesthesia topics, including related peri-anesthesia assessment and pharmacologic management.
- Emergency Medicine. Includes diagnosis and treatment of urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions exclusive of lower extremity.
- Those that require a medical management decision.

X. DIDACTIC EXAMINATION SUBJECT AREAS

Each didactic examination Major Subject Area may include any one of the Subcategory Subject Areas according to the Subcategory Subject Area Distribution shown below.

SUBJECT AREA DISTRIBUTION			
Major Subject Area	Foot Surgery Part I & Recertification^(c)	RRA Surgery Part I & Recertification	Self-Assessment
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
C. Differential Diagnosis	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
D. Surgical Principles	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
E. Surgical Procedures/ Techniques	Only blue or black ^(b) subcategory areas	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
G. Complications	All subcategory subject areas ^(a)	Red or black ^(b) subcategory subject areas	All subcategory subject areas
H. General Medical	All subject areas	Not applicable	All subject areas

^(a) RRA subject areas may be tested.

^(b) Black subcategory subject areas will emphasize examination-specific content area.

^(c) Subcategory areas designated with ⁽¹⁾ will receive less emphasis on the Foot recertification examinations.

SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS**1. Deformities**

- a. Acquired digital deformities
- b. Hallux abductovalgus
- c. Hallux limitus
- d. Central metatarsal deformities
- e. Fifth metatarsal deformities
- f. Other common forefoot deformities
- g. Complex/combined forefoot deformities
- h. Common rearfoot deformities
- i. Congenital digital deformities (polydactyly, syndactyly, macrodactyly, overlapping digits)
- j. Congenital forefoot deformities (brachymetatarsia, clawfoot, hallux varus)
- k. Metatarsus adductus/**skewfoot**
- l. **Pes planus**
- m. **Pes cavus**
- n. ⁽¹⁾ **Clubfoot**
- o. **Tarsal coalition**
- p. ⁽¹⁾ **Vertical talus**
- q. ⁽¹⁾ **Calcaneovalgus**
- r. **Equinus deformities**
- s. ⁽¹⁾ **Complex leg/ankle deformities**

2. Infections

- a. Soft tissue
- b. Bone/joint
- c. Systemic

3. Neoplasms/Tumors/Masses (primary benign, primary malignant, metastatic)

- a. Soft tissue
- b. Bone

4. Other Conditions

- a. Vascular disorders
- b. Focal neuropathies (entrapments, neuroma, TTS) and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)
- c. Neuropathic bone, joint, or soft-tissue derangements
- d. Neuromuscular disorders
- e. Arthritic disorders
- f. ⁽¹⁾ Metabolic bone disease
- g. Tendinopathies
- h. Other soft-tissue disorders (plantar fasciitis)
- i. Nail and dermatologic disorders
- j. Chronic post-traumatic disorders
- k. Osteochondroses/AVN

5. Acute Trauma

- a. Digital and sesamoidal fractures/dislocations b.
- Metatarsophalangeal joint dislocations
- c. Metatarsal fractures
- d. Tarsometatarsal fractures/dislocations e.
- Midfoot fractures/dislocations
- f. Rearfoot fractures/dislocations g. ⁽¹⁾
- Ankle fractures
- h. Acute soft-tissue ankle Injuries
- i. Acute tendon ruptures/lacerations.
- j. ⁽¹⁾ Acute nerve/vascular injury (including compartment syndrome)
- k. ⁽¹⁾ Miscellaneous acute trauma (degloving injury, foreign body, gunshot wounds, crush injury, contusions, burns)
- l. Pediatric fractures/growth-plate injuries

6. Nonspecific

- a. Joint implants
- b. Fixation devices
- c. Bone grafts/bone substitutes/bone healing
- d. Suture materials
- e. Other
- f. Soft tissue/anchor/skin graft/healing
- g. Anatomy
- h. Medicine (illnesses/therapeutics)
- i. Anesthesia