

ABPS 500-2005 EXAMINATION BLUEPRINTS

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I. BOARD QUALIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Foot Surgery Qualification Examination measures the individual's knowledge, skills, and judgment that are deemed necessary for entry into the Foot Surgery certification process.

Test Specifications: The Foot Surgery Qualification Examination tests, with an academic emphasis, the clinical knowledge and treatment skills acquired during an approved podiatric surgical residency. There are 125 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Pathoanatomy. 2. Pathomechanics. 3. Pathophysiology.	15
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging.	15
C. Surgical Principles.	10
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	15
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
F. Surgically Relevant Medical Management: 1. General medical. 2. Anesthesia. 3. Emergency medicine. 4. Lower extremity conservative.	15
G. Complications.	10
TOTAL:	100

II. BOARD QUALIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Qualification Examination measures the individual's knowledge, skills, and judgment that are deemed necessary for entry into the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery certification process.

Test Specifications: The Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Qualification Examination tests, with an academic emphasis, the knowledge and treatment skills specific to reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery expected to be acquired during an approved advanced podiatric surgical residency. There are 125 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Pathoanatomy. 2. Pathomechanics. 3. Pathophysiology.	20
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging.	10
C. Surgical Principles.	10
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	20
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	25
G. Complications.	15
TOTAL:	100

III. BOARD CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY

Purpose: The Certification Examination in Foot Surgery measures the clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with an individual's capability to integrate academics with surgical experience.

Test Specifications: The Certification Examination in Foot Surgery includes will be administered in oral format. Questions will involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient, based upon the following specifications:

1. Clinical scenarios;
2. Problem solving (case-based format);
3. Surgical outcomes assessment (credentialing);
4. Perioperative management;
5. Decision-making (within standards of care);
6. Is unbiased (regional, individual);
7. Is a practice analysis model; and,
8. Includes clinical application of academics.

Examination Content Map

Eight long-format, full case questions will be administered. While the questions will encompass the diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the presented patient, the intraoperative content will focus on surgical procedures of the entire foot with the exception of reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures. The questions will be based on patients falling into one of the following categories:

- Biomechanical/Acquired deformities.
- Congenital and/or pediatric deformities.
- Infections.
- Metabolic conditions and/or emergency medical management.
- Neoplastic (primary or metastatic) conditions.
- Traumatic conditions.
- Surgical or traumatic complications.

IV. BOARD CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY

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

Test Specifications: The Certification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery will be administered in oral format. Questions will involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient pertaining to reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures, based upon the following specifications:

1. Clinical scenarios;
2. Problem solving (case-based format);
3. Surgical outcomes assessment (credentialing);
4. Perioperative management;
5. Decision-making (within standards of care);
6. Is unbiased (regional, individual);
7. Is a practice analysis model; and,
8. Includes clinical application of academics.

Examination Content Map

Five questions will be administered, three long-format, full case questions, and two short-format questions. Full case questions will be based upon patients that fall into one of the following categories:

- Common rearfoot/ankle trauma.
- Adult rearfoot/ankle deformities.
- Pediatric rearfoot/ankle trauma or deformities.
- Surgical or traumatic complications.
- Neoplasms or infections.

Short-format questions will focus on specific clinical tasks in the diagnostic, intraoperative, or perioperative management of patients with reconstructive rearfoot and/or ankle pathology.

V. 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 will include reconstructive and non-reconstructive procedures of the forefoot and non-reconstructive procedures of the rearfoot. Emphasis will be on generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. There are 125 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Pathoanatomy. 2. Pathomechanics.	10
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging.	20
C. Surgical Principles.	15
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	10
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
F. Surgically Relevant Medical Management: 1. General medical. 2. Anesthesia. 3. Emergency medicine. 4. Lower extremity conservative.	10
G. Complications.	15
TOTAL:	100

VI. 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. Emphasis will be on generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. There are 100 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Pathoanatomy. 2. Pathomechanics.	15
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging.	20
C. Surgical Principles.	15
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	15
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
G. Complications.	15
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>100</i>

VII. SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Self-Assessment Examination assesses 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, emphasis will be on 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. There are 100 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Pathoanatomy. 2. Pathomechanics.	10
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging.	20
C. Surgical Principles.	15
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	10
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
F. Surgically Relevant Medical Management: 1. General medical. 2. Anesthesia. 3. Emergency medicine. 4. Lower extremity conservative.	10
G. Complications.	15
TOTAL:	100

VIII. SURGICAL IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

Purpose: The surgical in-training examination assesses the current level of knowledge of podiatric residents. The examination additionally provides an educational experience to the resident.

Test Specifications: The surgical in-training examination tests, with an academic emphasis, the clinical knowledge expected to be acquired while participating in a podiatric residency training program. There are 125 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Basic Science: 1. Anatomy/pathoanatomy. 2. Mechanics/pathomechanics. 3. Physiology/pathophysiology.	15
B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging. 1. Physical findings/clinical laboratory. 2. Pathology-gross/microscopic. 3. Medical imaging.	15
C. Surgical Principles.	10
D. Surgical Procedures and Techniques.	15
E. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
F. Surgically Relevant Medical Management: 1. General medical. 2. Anesthesia. 3. Emergency medicine. 4. Lower extremity conservative.	15
G. Complications.	10
TOTAL:	100

IX. WRITTEN EXAMINATION MAJOR SUBJECT AREA DEFINITIONS

A. Basic Science

Anatomy, biomechanics or physiology which either cause (etiology) or results from a pathologic process, or result from surgical alteration.

- Questions that call for diagnosis or management decisions should not be included but moved to appropriate subject categories.
- Questions that address normal anatomy, biomechanics, or physiology should not be included, but moved to the in-training examination pool.
- Questions regarding relevant (normal or abnormal) anatomy encountered and surgically altered during the performance of a surgical procedure belong in category D-Surgical Procedures.
- Questions pertaining to either surgical or post-traumatic complication belong in category G-Complications.

B. Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging

Diagnostic evaluation is limited to the diseases, disorders and conditions of the **lower extremity**. Questions may include clinical findings, laboratory studies, imaging, or other diagnostic studies that will lead to a specific diagnosis and/or related pathology.

These are specific to subject categories of 1) deformities, 2) infections, 3) neoplasm's, 4) other conditions, and 5) trauma as outlined in Subcategory Subject areas.

- Questions that require a management decision should be reclassified.
- Questions that list findings and call for a diagnosis belong in this category.
- Questions that specify a disease, disorder, or condition and ask to identify findings should be classified in the basic science category.
- Questions that require you to arrive at a specific classification belong in this category.
- Questions that specify a classification system and ask to identify the parameters of that system should be basic science.

C. Surgical Principles

Surgical principles focus upon general principles as 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.

D. Surgical Procedures

Questions in this category deal with the intraoperative aspects of **specific** surgical procedures. Typical questions may include items related to 1) anatomy which is encountered and surgically altered*; 2) incision placement and dissection technique; 3) orientation of bone cuts; 4) selection and application of fixation devices and bioimplants; 5) placement and fixation of tissue transfers; 6) selection and application of closure materials, drains, and surgical dressings.

- *Questions regarding relevant (normal or abnormal) anatomy encountered and surgically altered during the performance of a surgical procedure belong in this category.
- Questions related to complications that are assessed and/or managed intraoperatively are included in this category.

E. Procedural Perioperative Management/Surgical Decision Making

Questions in this category are procedure-specific and preoperative or post-operative in nature (not intraoperative).

- Questions that give findings and ask for selection of a specific procedure belong in this category.
- Questions regarding postoperative management of a specific procedure belong in this category
- The identification and/or management of lower extremity procedure specific postoperative complications should be moved to the complications category.

F. Medicine

Questions should be management oriented (broadly defined to include diagnosis and treatment), and not simply factual questions of etiology, etc. that would more appropriately be classified under a basic science category such as pathophysiology.

The category includes the subcategories of:

1. Medical Management. Includes diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions, not lower extremity diseases, disorders, and conditions.
2. Anesthesia. Includes local, regional, spinal, epidural, IV sedation, and general anesthesia topics, including related peri-anesthesia assessment and pharmacologic management.
3. Emergency Medicine. Includes diagnosis and treatment of urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions exclusive of lower extremity urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions. Diagnosis and treatment of urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions of the lower extremity should be classified in another appropriate category.
4. Lower Extremity Conservative. Includes non-surgical management of lower extremity diseases, disorders, and conditions.

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 pertaining to systemic complications should be moved to medicine.
- Questions related to complications that are assessed and/or managed intraoperatively are not included in this category and should be moved to category D-Surgical Procedures.
- Pathoanatomy, pathomechanics, and/or pathophysiology questions pertaining to either surgical or post-traumatic complications belong in this section.

X. WRITTEN EXAMINATION SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS**Subject Category****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 RSD.
- 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 faciitis).
- 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. Non-Specific

- 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.

XI. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS TO MAJOR SUBJECT AREAS BASED ON EXAMINATION TYPE

	SUBJECT SUBCATEGORY AREA DISTRIBUTION		
Major Subject Area	Foot Surgery	RRA Surgery	Recertification ⁽³⁾
A – Basic Science	All subcategory subject areas. ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
B – Diagnostic Evaluation/Medical Imaging	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
C – Surgical Principles	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
D – Surgical Procedures and Techniques	Only blue or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory areas	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
E – Procedural Perioperative Management	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
F – Surgically Relevant Medical Management	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	
G - Complications	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas.	

- (1) RRA subject areas may be tested.
(2) Black subcategory subject areas shall emphasize examination-specific content area.
(3) Subcategory areas designated with ⁽¹⁾ will receive less emphasis on the recertification examinations.