

ABFAS 500

Examination Blueprints
(Revised Classification)



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I. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part I of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination (consisting of didactic and Computer-based Patient Simulation [CBPS] questions) measures the knowledge, skills, and judgment of an individual who intends 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 questions.

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>The questions 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 Disorder 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 measures the knowledge, skills, and judgment of an individual who intends 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 that an individual should acquire during an approved advanced podiatric surgical residency. The examination contains a maximum of 125 didactic and 10 CBPS questions.

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> The questions 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 disorder 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 CBPS case questions. Questions involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient, based on 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
8. Includes clinical application of academics

Examination Content Map

The examination consists of CBPS case questions. While the questions encompass the diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the presented patient, the intraoperative content focuses on surgical procedures of the **entire foot and ankle**, with the exception of reconstructive rearfoot/ankle procedures. The questions are 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. 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 CBPS case questions. Questions involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient pertaining to reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures, based on 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
8. Includes clinical application of academics

Examination Content Map

The examination consists of CBPS case questions. Questions are based on patients who 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

V. SURGICAL IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Surgical In-training Examination assesses the podiatric resident’s current level of knowledge. 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 acquired during a podiatric residency training program. The examination contains a maximum of 125 didactic and 10 CBPS questions.

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>The questions 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 Disorder 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: Beginning with the 2012 SAE, the examination includes at least 25% RRA content.

IX. WRITTEN 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 should be included.
- ask for a diagnosis from a particular examination element should be included.
- ask for the pertinence of a particular examination should be included.
- involve non-lower extremity pathology should be moved to the General Medicine category.
- list multiple findings of a history and physical examination and ask for a diagnosis or differential should be moved to differential diagnosis.
- pertain to pathoanatomy, pathomechanics, and/or pathophysiology should be included.

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 medical management decision should be reclassified to H.
- require a surgical management decision should be reclassified to F.
- require a diagnosis from a specific imaging study belong in this category.
- list findings of a study or studies with no images and ask for a diagnosis, should be moved to differential diagnosis.

C. Differential Diagnosis

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

- Questions that ask for a diagnosis based on multiple elements belong in this category.
- Questions that require arrival 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 included.
- Questions that list findings of a study or studies with no imaging study shown and ask for a diagnosis should be included.

D. Surgical Principles

Surgical principles focus on 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.

E. Surgical Procedures/Treatment

Questions in this category deal with the intraoperative aspects of **specific** surgical procedures. Typical questions may include items related to 1) anatomy that 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; and 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.

F. Procedural Perioperative Management

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

- Questions that provide 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.

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 E-Surgical Procedures.

H. Medicine

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

The category includes:

1. Medical Management. Includes diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions, exclusive of the lower extremity.
2. Interpretation of the history and physical examination and diagnostic studies relating to non-lower extremity pathology belong in this category.
3. Anesthesia. Includes local, regional, spinal, epidural, IV sedation, and general anesthesia topics, including related peri-anesthesia assessment and pharmacologic management.
4. Emergency Medicine. Includes diagnosis and treatment of urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions exclusive of lower extremity.

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 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

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

Major Subject Area	SUBJECT SUBCATEGORY AREA DISTRIBUTION		
	Foot Surgery	RRA Surgery	Recertification ⁽³⁾
A – Problem-focused History and Physical	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas	
B – Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas	
C – Differential Diagnosis	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas	
D – Surgical Principles	All subcategory subject areas ⁽¹⁾	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas	
E – Surgical Procedures/ Techniques	Only blue or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory areas	Red or black ⁽²⁾ subcategory subject areas	
F – Procedural Perioperative 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	
G – General Medical			

⁽¹⁾ RRA subject areas may be tested.

⁽²⁾ Black subcategory subject areas will emphasize examination-specific content area.

⁽³⁾ Subcategory areas designated with ⁽¹⁾ will receive less emphasis on the recertification examinations.