



# ABFAS NEWSLETTER

for Residents

October, 2018



## Interpreting the ABFAS In-Training Examination Scores

The In-training Examinations score reports are designed to help residents and directors understand how examination performance changes over the course of their residency training. The reports also provide a comparison to others in the same group of examinees.

### Scaled Scores

The didactic and CBPS ITE scores are reported as scaled scores rather than raw scores or percent correct. Scores are transformed into scaled scores so that they remain comparable across different versions of the examination and as the examinations change over time. The didactic and CBPS In-training Examinations scores are both reported on a scale of 200-800. There is no pass/fail for the In-training Exams, so there is no minimum score required to pass. For comparison, the minimum score required to pass the Part I Foot didactic examination is 405, and the minimum score required to pass the Part I RRA didactic examination is 450.

### Didactic Examination Score Report

Residents receive a printed preliminary didactic examination score report at the test site upon completion of the examination. This report shows the weighting and scaled scores for each skill area, and a total scaled score. The preliminary report is not available to residency directors.

Didactic score reports become available on PRR about 6 weeks after the examination window has closed. Residency directors have access to the same reports as individual residents in their program. Reports can be viewed directly on PRR and there is a downloadable version that can be saved and printed.

Each didactic examination score report shows the resident's scaled scores for the six foot surgery subject areas along with the total scaled score in the "Your Score" column. The total score is the most important score to consider because it reliably measures the resident's knowledge of all the subject areas. Individual scaled scores for each subject area are also reported, but they are not a reliable measure of knowledge or ability level in each of the subject area because there are too few items being tested in each subject area. However, these subject category scores are a useful illustration of relative strengths and weaknesses among the subject areas. Although performance in each subject area is a factor of the total score, because each subject area is weighted differently, the total score is not simply the sum, nor average, of all subject area scores.

Mean Subject Area scores by PGY show the relative performance of these groups among the subject areas. When compared to the mean total scores for each PGY, the resident's overall performance relative to each PGY group can be seen. The mean scores are limited to In-training Examinations administered in the same examination year.

### CBPS Examination Score Report

CBPS score reports are available only on PRR about 6 weeks after the examination window has closed (there is no preliminary report for CBPS handed out at the testing center). There are two versions of the report available on PRR: one that can be viewed directly on PRR and a downloadable version. Both versions include report templates for Foot and RRA cases. However, RRA scores are reported only for PGY 3 and PGY 4 (if applicable) residents who are in RRA programs because they are the only group that receives RRA cases on the examination.

As with the didactic examination results, the CBPS total score is a reliable measure of the knowledge and interpretive skills deemed appropriate for a podiatric surgical resident. Mean total scores of each PGY group are shown for a relative comparison with the resident's total score (this is not shown on the downloadable version of the score report).

Mean scores for each CBPS subject area are not given because of the small number of items given for each case. Instead, the CBPS examination score report shows how the resident performed relative to the average of all others who have taken the CBPS examination during the same examination year. This is reported in each subject area as either "above", "below", or at the "average" of all other examinees in the same PGY group. Comparative subject area data are not available by other PGY groups.



## PRR Logging Guidelines

As a reminder, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) working with an ABFAS task force has updated the surgical procedure categories and logging guidelines for PRR. These changes more accurately reflect practices in the field.

Residents should already be logging in under these new guidelines. Please contact your Residency Director if you have any questions.

## #footfirst

ABFAS and our DPMs are #footfirst! ABFAS is looking for photos of residents studying, performing cases, interacting with feet, performing on feet, or of residents having fun together! Send your best photos to [footfirst@abfas.org](mailto:footfirst@abfas.org) so ABFAS can share them on social media, in our magazines, and online. Each month, we will select a winner with the best photo who will receive a great ABFAS prize and recognition on our Facebook page.



## ABFAS Profile Update

ABFAS reminds you to log into your profile and confirm all contact information, including email address and mailing address is up to date. Please also confirm that all licenses are up to date. To update your license information, email your license information to [licenses@abfas.org](mailto:licenses@abfas.org) or you can fax your information at 415-553-7801.

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](http://ABFAS.org)



AMERICAN BOARD OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY®

ABFAS NEWSLETTER is an executive summary of noteworthy articles. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the content does not necessarily reflect the views of ABFAS and does not imply endorsement of any view, product or service by ABFAS.

Copyright © 2018 American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery