



Preparing for Your ABFAS Didactic Exam

ABFAS' Part I Board Qualification exams take place in March ([Register now!](#) Registration closes February 26, 2020). The exams consists of two formats, the C computer-Based Patient Simulator (CBPS) and the didactic computer-adaptive (CAT) or multiple-choice exams.

What is computer-adaptive? As you answer each question, the computer assesses your response and selects the next question based on whether you answered the previous question correctly. The questions become progressively more or less difficult as the examination establishes your level of knowledge.

Preparing for Your Exam

ABFAS provides tools for candidates to better prepare for the didactic exams. ABFAS stresses that you should become familiar with these tools, and take the online practice exam at least once.

The [Didactic Online Study Guide](#) contains information on exam subject areas and examples of the didactic examination questions. The [online practice exam](#) demonstrates the types of questions to expect and the formats in which it will be presented in the didactic exams. You can access both of these tools through your [StepUp Learning account](#) (sign in using your ABFAS username and password).

Refer to the [ABFAS Board Qualification document](#) if you have any questions about the Part I Board Qualification examinations.

Preparing for Your CBPS Exams

Just like for the didactic exam, ABFAS provides preparation tools for candidates enrolled in CBPS exams. Every candidate should use these tools, and take the CBPS practice exam at least once before the Qualification examinations.

Take the Online CBPS Practice Exam

The [CBPS practice exam](#) is designed to help you become more familiar with the functions and navigation of the exam. However, waiting until test day to learn how the exam functions could result in lost time and frustration.

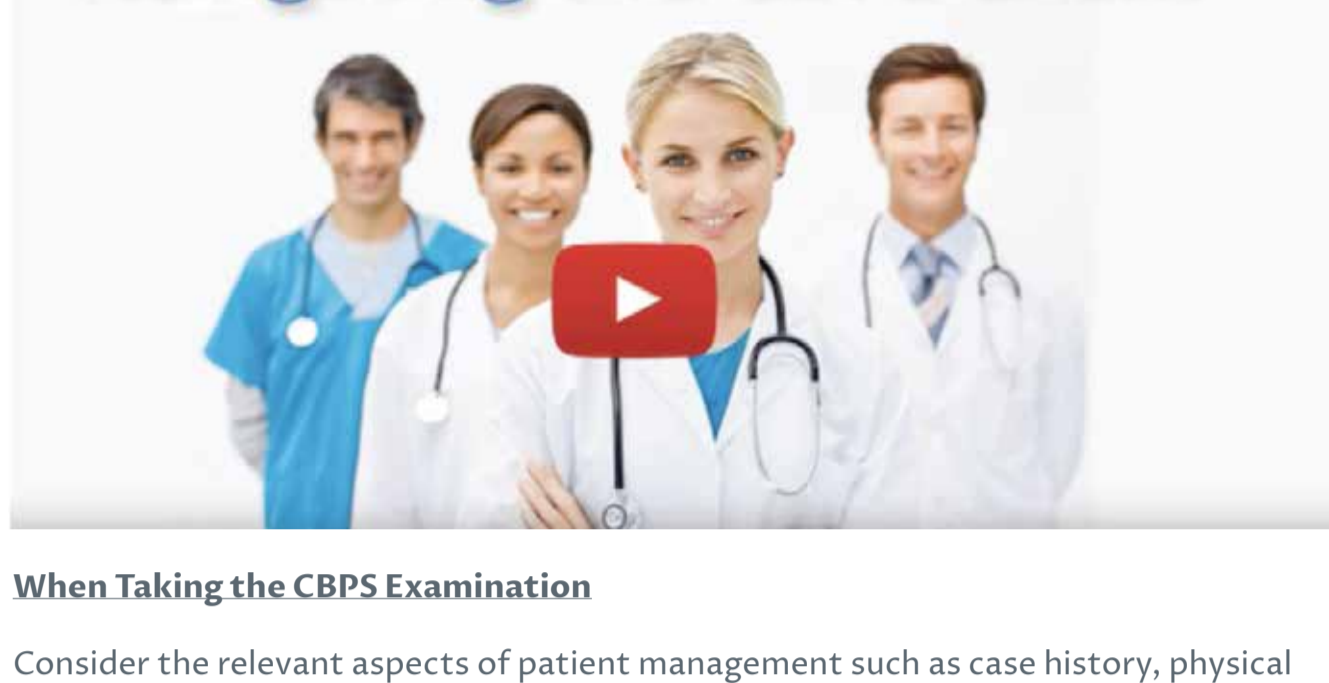
It is very important to become familiar with the following functions before test day:

- Searching the list of selections.
- 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 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.



When Taking the CBPS Examination

Consider the relevant aspects of patient management such as case history, physical examination, imaging, labs, diagnostic procedures, diagnosis, treatment, and in some cases, follow-up diagnoses and treatments. For example, if you are hesitant about whether a procedure is warranted, you should make the decision based on clinical indications.

Case-focused physical examinations and patient work-ups are as important as diagnosis and treatment. While collecting patient information, you must balance thoroughness with efficiency, as well as balancing quality versus quantity. You should select information that is specific to the problem that is presented in the case. Since there are a limited number of choices, it is important to be very specific to demonstrate that you have the ability and knowledge to manage the case in an appropriate manner.

Common CBPS Mistakes to Avoid

Jumping to a Diagnosis and Treatment

A common mistake made on the CBPS exam is to jump to a diagnosis and move to treatment without providing evidence that the diagnosis and treatment were selected in a thoughtful manner. For example, seeing an image of a patient with a bunion and deciding to take an x-ray and then do a procedure would be a mistake. We need to know that you performed an appropriate case-focused physical examination. This must be demonstrated by selecting the physical examination options that relate specifically to the problem presented and/or support the determination of a diagnosis and treatment plan, where applicable.

Not Providing a Case-focused Work-up

Working up the patient to prepare the patient for surgery is not the purpose of the examination. The purpose is to come up with a diagnosis and a treatment plan that is pertinent to the case itself. Concentrate on the case-specific information presented to determine if you need any additional evidence for the diagnosis and treatment of the case. It is important to focus on the management of the case, not the surgical work-up.

For additional CBPS resources, including instructions for the CBPS Practice Exam [click here](#).



Register Now for the March 11, 2020 Board Qualification Exams

The March 11, 2020 Part I Qualification exam registration is 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](#).

Important Dates:

- February 26, 2020** – Registration Closes
- March 4, 2020** – Last Day to Withdraw w/o Penalty
- March 11, 2020** – Exam Date



ABFAS' Annual Newsletter

Catch up with our annual ABFAS Newsletter! This year's newsletter features stories on the exciting changes coming to ABFAS certification. With an introduction by Board President Keith L. Jacobson, DPM, additional stories profile our newly elected Board members and officers, the 2019 Michael L. Stone Award winners, our #footfirst campaign, and a whole lot more! You can read, download, and share our [newsletter here](#).

If you have not received a paper version of our newsletter from your mail carrier, please contact us at info@abfas.org.

We Want to See You #footfirst in 2020!

ABFAS has some exciting news, but we need your help! Very soon, ABFAS will be launching a new website. ABFAS wants to show DPMs from across the country on our new site, social media channels, and newsletters.

Send in your photos of DPMs studying, performing cases, interacting with feet, performing on feet, or even just hanging out in the OR.

Send your best photos to footfirst@abfas.org. 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

Join us in Florida and New York City!

ABFAS will be attending the Florida Podiatric Science and Management Symposium in Lake Buena Vista, Florida this coming weekend. Stop by our booth (97) and we can answer all your questions about ABFAS board certification.

[Florida Podiatric Medical Association Science & Management Symposium](#)
January 15 – 18, 2020
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

In addition to our booth, you will find some exciting programs sponsored by ABFAS.

The 16th Annual Residents Forum will present the 2020 Case Presentation Competition, which will take place during SAM 2020 on **Friday, January 17, 2020** from 3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ABFAS Secretary/Treasurer, Amberly C. Paradoa DPM, will present, "The Value of ABFAS Certification" on **Sunday, January 19, 2020**, from 7:30 am – 8:00 am. Dr. Paradoa will discuss important certification process changes and exam preparation, in addition to taking questions. Please join Dr. Paradoa in the Track 1 Lecture Hall.

ABFAS then travels to New York City for the NY20 Podiatric Clinical Conference. If you are in the area, join us at booth # 617.

[New York State Podiatric Medical Association/ Foundation for Podiatric Medicine](#)
January 24 – 26, 2020
New York Marriott Marquis
New York, New York

And that's not all! Later this year, ABFAS will be attending even more conferences. If you are attending, be sure to stop by our booth where you can ask any questions you might have about ABFAS exams or the certification process. Residents and students, be sure to pick up a special gift!

ABFAS will also be presenting at many of these conferences. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for more information about these programs.

We hope to see you at the following conferences:

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

TPMA Southwest Foot and Ankle Conference
September 24 – 26, 2020
Irving Convention Center
Irving, TX

American Society of Podiatric Surgeons (ASPS)
September 25–26, 2020
Chicago, IL

Safe Sender

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

