

Advancing the Highest Standards of the Practice of Anesthesiology

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ADVANCED Exam Blueprint

Purpose of the ADVANCED Exam

The ADVANCED Exam is a summative examination designed to assess an examinee's mastery of the educational objectives of the continuum of education in anesthesiology. The continuum of education in anesthesiology consists of four years of full-time training subsequent to the date that the medical or osteopathic degree has been conferred. The continuum consists of a clinical base year and 36 months of approved training in anesthesia (CA-1, CA-2, and CA-3 years).

Exam Content

The ADVANCED Exam covers both basic and advanced topics in the following five content categories:

- Basic Sciences
- Clinical Sciences
- Organ-based Basic & Clinical Sciences
- Clinical Subspecialties
- Special Problems or Issues in Anesthesiology

Each ADVANCED Exam form is built to the same content specifications, known as an exam blueprint. The blueprint is used to ensure that every form of the ADVANCED Exam measures the same depth and breadth of content knowledge. The data below shows the number and relative percentage of questions from each of the five content categories shown above that will appear on each ADVANCED Exam form.

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Basic Sciences (9%)	15 – 22
Clinical Sciences (10%)	18 – 22
Organ-based Basic & Clinical Sciences (30.5%)	52 – 68
Clinical Subspecialties (44.5%)	76 – 101
Special Problems or Issues in Anesthesiology (6%)	7 – 16

Exam Specifications

The ADVANCED Exam consists of 200 questions, and examinees have 4 hours to complete the exam. The ADVANCED Exam includes A-type items only. A-type questions are single-best-answer multiple-choice questions that require the application of knowledge rather than simple recall of factual information. These questions often include a brief clinical vignette followed by a lead-in question and four response options.

The ADVANCED Exam includes questions that reference static images. A small number of ADVANCED Exam questions may include short video clips.

Exam Administration

The ADVANCED Exam is administered twice each year to physicians that have successfully completed an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency training program. The ADVANCED Exam is a computer-based exam that is administered through Pearson VUE centers nationwide.

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
BASIC SCIENCES (9%)	15 – 22
Anatomy	3 – 5
Physics, Monitoring & Anesthesia Delivery Devices	4 – 6
Pharmacology	4 – 6
Interpreting Data	4 – 5
CLINICAL SCIENCES (10%)	18 – 22
Regional Anesthesia	11 – 13
Special Techniques	7 – 9
ORGAN-BASED BASIC & CLINICAL SCIENCES (30.5%)	52 – 68
Central & Peripheral Nervous System	9 – 11
Respiratory System	9 – 11
Cardiovascular System	9 – 11
Gastrointestinal/Hepatic Systems	4 – 6
Renal & Urinary Systems/Electrolyte Balance	6 – 8
Hematologic System	7 – 9
Endocrine & Metabolic Systems	4 – 6
Neuromuscular Diseases & Disorders	4 – 6
CLINICAL SUBSPECIALTIES (44.5%)	76 – 101
Painful Disease States	15 – 17
Pediatric Anesthesia	15 – 17
Obstetric Anesthesia	15 – 17
Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) Anesthesia	3 – 5
Anesthesia for Plastic Surgery	1 – 3
Anesthesia for Laparoscopic Surgery	2 – 4
Ophthalmologic Anesthesia	1 – 3
Orthopedic Anesthesia	1 – 3
Trauma Anesthesia	2 – 4
Anesthesia for Ambulatory Surgery	2 – 4
Geriatric Anesthesia/Aging	3 – 5
Critical Care	17 – 19
SPECIAL PROBLEMS OR ISSUES IN ANESTHESIOLOGY (6%)	7 – 16
Electroconvulsive Therapy	0 – 2
Organ Donors	2 – 4
Radiologic Procedures	2 – 4
Ethics and Medico-Legal Issues	3 – 5

Practice Management	0 – 1
Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	0 – 1
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Health Care	0 – 1
Healthcare Disparities	0 – 1