



AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

GENERAL SURGERY: CONTENT OUTLINE FOR THE ABS IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION (ABSITE®)

As of 2014, the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination (ABSITE) is aligned with the *SCORE® Curriculum Outline for General Surgery Residency*. This curriculum outline lists Patient Care and Medical Knowledge topics to be covered in a five-year general surgery residency program. The Patient Care outline consists of 28 organ-based categories. The Medical Knowledge outline consists of 13 categories.

- ▶ The *SCORE Curriculum Outline for General Surgery Residency* is available as a PDF booklet or as an Excel spreadsheet from www.absurgery.org or www.surgicalcore.org.

The content outline for the ABSITE is presented on the next page. The categories in the ABSITE content outline refer to those in the SCORE Curriculum Outline. In addition to Patient Care and Medical Knowledge, the ABSITE also addresses three additional topic areas: Radiology, Outcomes, and Ethics.

The primary focus of the ABSITE is on Clinical Management. Target percentages for the ABSITE indicate that approximately 80% of the exam's questions will address Clinical Management topics and 20% Applied Science topics. Overall, approximately 72% of the ABSITE questions will address SCORE Patient Care topics, 24% SCORE Medical Knowledge topics, and 4% "Other" topics. These targeted "weights" are approximate and actual percentages in the final examination may vary slightly.

The content outline also displays targeted weights for each specific section and category in the examination. Given the large number of topics included in the outline, weights for most categories are generally small. The specific weight values are targets and actual percentages may vary slightly in the final examination.

Prior to 2014, ABSITE content outlines were based on broadly defined organ systems, and examination questions within each section were designated as primarily assessing either Clinical Management or "Basic Science" (now called "Applied Science"). Almost all categories listed in the current ABSITE content outline will continue to cover both Clinical Management and Applied Science (e.g., Anatomy, Physiology, etc.) topics, although there are some categories where only one of these types of questions is primarily appropriate (e.g., Endoscopy, Trauma, Biostatistics, Immunology, etc.).

ABSITE® CONTENT OUTLINE

ABSITE CONTENT TOPICS*		CATEGORY WEIGHTS (%)
SCORE Patient Care Category #	Patient Care Category	72
	ABDOMEN - TOTAL	17
1	Abdomen - General	3
2	Abdomen - Hernia	2.5
3	Abdomen - Biliary	3.5
4	Abdomen - Liver	3.5
5	Abdomen - Pancreas	3.5
6	Abdomen - Spleen	1
	ALIMENTARY TRACT - TOTAL	14.5
7	Alimentary Tract - Esophagus	2.5
8	Alimentary Tract - Stomach	3.5
9	Alimentary Tract - Small Intestine	3
10	Alimentary Tract - Large Intestine	3.5
11	Alimentary Tract - Anorectal	2
12	Endoscopy	2
13	Breast	4
14	Endocrine	4
15	Skin and Soft Tissue	3.5
16	Surgical Critical Care	5
17	Trauma	6
	VASCULAR - TOTAL	4
18	Vascular - Arterial Disease	2
19	Vascular - Venous	1
20	Vascular - Access	1
21	Transplantation	2
22	Thoracic Surgery	2
23	Pediatric Surgery	2
24	Plastic Surgery	2
25	Genitourinary	1
26	Gynecology	1
27	Head and Neck	1
28	Nervous System	1
SCORE Medical Knowledge Category #	Medical Knowledge Category	24
1	Anesthesia	1
2	Biostatistics and Evaluation of Evidence	1
3	Fluids, Electrolytes and Acid-Base Balance	3.5
4	Geriatric Surgery and End-of-Life Care	1.5
5	Immunology	1
6	Infection and Antimicrobial Therapy	3
7	Minimally Invasive Surgery - Principles	1
8	Nutrition and Metabolism	2
9	Oncology and Tumor Biology	2
10	Pharmacology	1
11	Preoperative Evaluation and Perioperative Care	4
12	Transfusion and Disorders of Coagulation	2
13	Wound Healing	1
Other Category	Radiology	1
Other Category	Outcomes	2
Other Category	Ethics	1

*Note - approximately 80% of items will address Clinical Management topics, 20% Applied Science topics.