American Board of Anesthesiology
Oral Examiner Management

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Overview

• The ABA’s primary certification system includes an oral examination

• Over 2,000 candidates are examined each year

• The ABA maintains a pool of 400+ examiners to delivery these oral exams and score the candidates

• Every candidate is examined by 4 examiners, each of whom contributes 3 module ratings per candidate
Examiner Qualifications

To qualify, physicians must meet the following requirements:

- Valid, unexpired board certification in anesthesiology
- Certified at least 5 years
- Active participation in the MOCA Program
- Acceptable clinical activity
Examiner Nomination & Selection

Nominees must submit:

- a letter of nomination
- current curriculum vitae
- the names and email addresses of three ABA diplomate references

Nominees are reviewed and evaluated by the members of the ABA’s Exams Committee
Examiner Nomination & Selection

Evaluation criteria include:

- Qualifications
- Strength of letters of reference
- Number of positive and negative references
- Director potential

Other criteria:

- Age
- Number of other examiners from the same program

Nominees selected by the Exams Committee must be approved by the full board
New Examiner Training

Day 1:
  • 3-hour group training workshop
  • Examiner briefing

Day 2:
  • Group training during Periods 1 & 2
  • Examining during Periods 3 & 4

Day 3:
  • Reviewing prior exam videos and examining during Periods 1 & 2
  • Examining during Periods 3 & 4
New Examiner Training

Senior Mentors

• All New Examiners are assigned 1 or more Senior Mentors to work with them during their training period

• Senior Mentor(s) are experienced Part 2 Examiners to whom they may go with any questions about the oral examination process

• New examiners will examine with their Senior Mentor(s) several times during the training period
Ongoing Examiner Training

- All Examiners participate in a briefing session on the afternoon prior to the start of each exam administration week.
- An ABA Director who serves on the Exams Committee leads the briefing session.
ABA Oral Examination Structure

Session 1: 35 minutes (long stem)
- Intraop Mgmt – 10 min – Examiner A (senior)
- Postop Care – 15 min – Examiner B (junior)
- Three additional topics – 10 min – Examiner A (senior)

15-Minute Break

Session 2: 35 minutes (short stem)
- Preop Eval – 10 min – Examiner A (senior)
- Intraop Mgmt – 15 min – Examiner B (junior)
- Three additional topics – 10 min – Examiner A (senior)
ABA Oral Examination Structure

The ABA’s Part 2 (oral) Exam is designed to evaluate four qualities and attributes of a diplomate of the ABA:

• Application of medical knowledge
• Judgment
• Adaptability
• Organization and presentation

Part 2 Exams are conducted by examiners using “Guided Questions”
Examiner Auditing for Quality Assurance

The ABA’s goal is to ensure a uniformly high-quality exam experience for every candidate.

Examiner audits are performed by current and former ABA Directors and senior examiner auditors.

Audits are completed either while examining with the examiner being audited or observing the exam from the control room.

Specific audit criteria are:

- Content
- Style
- Type of candidate, i.e., easy/average vs. difficult

Examiner feedback at specified intervals.
Audit Form Sample

Audits are performed via an iPad application.

Examiner Audit Forms will only appear on the screen of an assigned auditor.

The form will alert the auditor of incorrect or incomplete sections prior to a successful submission.
Examiner Auditing for Quality Assurance

Scoring consistency metrics are also considered as part of the examiner’s audit record.

All examiners are reviewed on a regular cycle for reappointment and promotion.

Examiners are promoted over successive 4-year terms:

- from **New** Examiner
- to **Provisional** Examiner
- to **Junior** Examiner
- to **Senior** Examiner
Questions?