



Winter 2023 Policy Book Changes

The ABA has approved the following updates to the Policy Book:

1.02 MISSION AND PURPOSES

- Changed “(2) Relief and prevention of pain during and following surgical, obstetric, therapeutic, and diagnostic procedures.” to “(2) **The perioperative management of patients receiving surgical, obstetric, therapeutic, or diagnostic procedures.**”
- Changed “A diplomate of the board must possess knowledge, judgment, adaptability, clinical skills, technical facility, and personal characteristics sufficient to carry out the entire scope of anesthesiology practice independently, without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.” to “A diplomate of the board must possess knowledge, judgment, adaptability, clinical skills, technical facility, and personal characteristics sufficient to carry out the entire scope of anesthesiology practice **without supervision and without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.**” under D.

2 TRADITIONAL EXAMINATIONS (Part 1 & Part 2)

- Removed all irrelevant Part 1 examination information. Any information referencing Part 1 that pertains to or is helpful for Part 2 candidates is remaining.

2.02 THE CONTINUUM OF EDUCATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

- Changed the following sentence under letter A: “During the clinical base year, the physician must be enrolled and training as a resident in a transitional year or specialty training program in the U.S. or its territories that is accredited by the ACGME ~~or approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)~~, or outside the U.S. and its territories in institutions affiliated with medical schools approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education from the date the training begins to the date it ends.”

2.06 OVERVIEW OF INITIAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

- Added the following: “**As of 2023, the Part 1 Examination is no longer offered. Beginning in 2024, the Part 2 Examination will no longer be offered. If you completed your residency after July 1, 2017, please see sections 3.01-3.16 for staged exam eligibility requirements.**”
- Removed the following: “Beginning in 2017, the new staged examinations process (BASIC, ADVANCED and APPLIED Examinations) replaced the traditional Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations ~~for candidates who began the four-year continuum of education in anesthesiology on or after July 2012 and would/will complete residency training on or after June 30, 2016.~~”
- Updated “A. Part 1 Examination” as follows: The Part 1 Examination is **no longer offered. designed to assess the candidate’s knowledge of basic and clinical sciences as applied to anesthesiology. The Part 1 Examination is held annually in locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. A passing grade, as determined by the board, is required. The Part 1 Examination will be administered by computer through a third-party testing vendor.**

~~Examination dates are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates, deadlines, and fees, please visit our website at www.theaba.org.~~

- Removed the following from “B. Part 2 Examination”: The Part 2 Examination emphasizes the scientific rationale underlying clinical management decisions. ~~Examiners are board~~

~~directors and other ABA diplomates who assist as associate examiners. A passing grade, as determined by the board, is required.”~~

2.08 EXAMINATION REGISTRATION, SCHEDULING & CANCELLATION

- ~~Removed the following section: “A: Part 1 Examination — Candidates will register for the examination in the year of the examination and pay a single fee upon registration. We notify candidates of their eligibility to register for Part 1 Examination via emails sent to their email address on file. Candidates who register for an examination by the established deadline must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees are posted at www.theaba.org.~~

~~After candidates register for an examination and pay the fee via their portal account, they will be **notified via email** with instructions on how to schedule an examination appointment with the examination vendor. Our office is not responsible for an interruption in communication with a candidate that is due to circumstances beyond its control, including candidates unsubscribing from ABA email communications.”~~

- Changed the following under B. (1): “**A candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment** must submit a ~~written request to us to cancel~~ cancellation request on the **ABA Go portal** at least one week prior to the examination administration week.”
- Added the following sentence to the end of B. (2): “If a scheduled appointment is missed for a reason that does not represent an unavoidable or catastrophic event, the examination fee will be forfeited. Forfeiting of the examination fee is solely at the discretion of the board. Please contact APPLIEDexam@theaba.org to submit a request for a fee waiver due to an unavoidable or catastrophic event.”

TRADITIONAL EXAMINATIONS EXAMINATION DATES

- All dates updated to accurately reflect 2023 exam dates.

3.02 THE CONTINUUM OF EDUCATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

- Changed the following sentence under letter A: “During the clinical base year, the physician must be enrolled and training as a resident in a transitional year or specialty training program in the U.S. or its territories that is accredited by the ACGME ~~or approved by the AOA~~, or outside the U.S. and its territories in institutions affiliated with medical schools approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education from the date training begins to the date it ends.
- ~~Removed the following sentence from C. (1): “All three years of CA training must occur in programs that are accredited by the ACGME for the entire period of training. All physicians who graduate from an AOA-approved anesthesiology residency program on or after the date the program receives full ACGME accreditation will receive ABA credit for the CA 1-3 years of satisfactory training in the newly accredited program.~~

3.08 BASIC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

- Added the following under C: *I authorize the ABA to report my status in the examination system, including the results of any examination, to the director and department chair of the program from which I received my clinical training. I understand and agree that I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of reportingoptout@theaba.org to withdraw my consent. I authorize the ABA to: (1) use any score in psychometric analyses to confirm observations and reports of suspected irregularities in the conduct of an examination; and (2) respond to any inquiry about my status in the ABA examination system. I understand and agree that*

once my examination registration is completed and granted, this consent cannot be withdrawn.

3.09 ADVANCED EXAMINATION REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Changed the following under B: “Have evidence on file in the ABA office of having **satisfactorily completed 27 months of clinical anesthesiology training** ~~fulfilled all requirements of the continuum of education in anesthesiology~~ before the date of the ADVANCED Examination.”

3.13 NOTIFICATION AND CANCELLATION OF EXAMINATIONS

- Changed the following under B: “To retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment, we must receive the request and the cancellation fee no later than **three days one-week** after the examination date.”
- Changed the following under A: “**A resident or candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment** must submit a ~~written request to cancel~~ **cancellation request on the ABA Go portal** at least one week prior to the examination administration week.”
- Changed the following under B: “**A resident or candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment** because of an unavoidable or catastrophic event must submit a written request with explanation and independent documentation of the event. ~~To retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment, we must receive the request and the cancellation fee no later than three days after the examination date.~~ We must receive the candidate's request and the cancellation fee no later than three days after the examination date to retain the examination fee for the next examination appointment.”
- Added the following sentences to the end of B: “This policy is applied to all staged exams. Contact exams@theaba.org for BASIC & ADVANCED exams and APPLIEDexam@theaba.org for APPLIED exams to submit a request for a fee waiver due to an unavoidable or catastrophic event.”

STAGED EXAMINATIONS EXAMINATION DATES

- All dates updated to accurately reflect the 2023 exam dates.

4.03 MOCA 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

- Removed the following from under E: “Diplomates must earn ~~25 points per five-year period for a total of~~ 50 points during the 10-year MOCA cycle.”
- Removed the following from under E: “~~Diplomates may not receive credit for more than 25 points in one year; therefore, diplomates may not complete all IMP requirements in one year.~~”
- Changed the following under E: “**Diplomates will no longer report completed activities; they will only attest to having completed 25 points every five years 50 points within the ten-year cycle.**”
- Changed the following under “Participating in MOCA”: “(4) Actively participating in QI activities which ~~includes attestation of completion of 50 points by the end of Year 10.~~”

5.01 SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATIONS

- Added the following: “**G. Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology** Is the perioperative care of patients undergoing cardiovascular procedures and Includes: the pre-operative patient evaluation and optimization of clinical status prior to the cardiothoracic procedure; the Interpretation of cardiovascular and pulmonary diagnostic test data, pharmacological and mechanical hemodynamic support, and peri-operative critical care, Including ventilatory

support and peri-operative pain management. Diplomates In Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology possess competence in advanced-level-perioperative transthoracic echocardiography.”

5.08 TEMPORARY CRITERIA FOR ADULT CARDIAC ANESTHESIOLOGY

- Created this section and linked to website to view all ACA temporary criteria information

5.12 EXAMINATION REGISTRATION, SCHEDULING & CANCELLATION

- Changed the following under B (1): “**A candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment** must submit a ~~written request to us to cancel~~ **cancellation request on the ABA Go portal** at least one week prior to the examination administration week.”
- Added the following sentence to the end of B (2): “**Please contact exams@theaba.org to submit a request for a fee waiver due to an unavoidable or catastrophic event.**”

5.13 DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

- Removed “~~D. Candidates who registered for the Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination with temporary criteria had until Dec. 31, 2018, to satisfy all requirements for subspecialty certification.~~”

5.14 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

- Changed information for Hospice and Palliative Medicine or Sleep Medicine exams from “Complete four additional consecutive months of training in the subspecialty. The training must be in an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology subspecialty program and must be completed satisfactorily before the physician can register to enter the subspecialty examination system.” to “**Take and pass the relevant subspecialty recertification exam offered by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).**”

SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION DATES

- All dates updated to accurately reflect the 2023 exam dates.

7.04 RECORDS RETENTION

- Updated the following under D:
 1. ~~Part I: Professionalism and Professional Standing~~ to **Medical Licensure**
 2. ~~Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Records~~ to **CME**
 3. ~~Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice~~ to **Quality Improvement**
- Changed the following under E: “Records pertaining to results of ~~MOCA Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills~~ **MOCA Minute** are retained for four years.”

7.05 REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

- Added the following: The ABA, being dedicated to the principles of fairness and consistency in its dealings with its registrants, candidates, and diplomates, has established a policy for review of certain board decisions. The only actions that are reviewable are a decision to deny exam registration, **including for irregular examination behavior**, a denial of assessment under nonstandard conditions, or revocation of a certificate issued.

7.09 ALTERNATE ENTRY PATH TO SUBSPECIALTY

- Added new section and updated following section numbers accordingly
- All new language can also be found [here](#)

7.11 DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICY

- Added “**Gender, Race and Ethnicity**” under “Types of Data Collected”

7.14 ASSESSMENT SCORE VERIFICATION POLICY

- Changed the following: “For MOCA Minute, the service is limited to verifying that the annual Measurement Decision Theory (MDT) probability or p-value is correctly calculated based on the diplomate’s responses to their **required 120** MOCA Minute questions as of the end of the most recent ~~full-quarter~~ **calendar year.**”

GLOSSARY

- Added the following sentence to Part 1 Examination: “**Beginning in 2023, the Part 1 Examination will no longer be offered.**”