



American Society for
Clinical Pathology

96 What You Need to Know for the AP/CP Boards

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**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
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Chicago, IL 60603**

96 What You Need to Know for the AP/CP Boards

The session provides a discussion of how residents can prepare for the American Board of Pathology Anatomic and Clinical Pathology examinations in order to maximize their performance. The format of the examinations, including virtual microscopy, will be reviewed. Other topics to be discussed include study planning, available resources, and value of review courses.

- Understand what is required to sit for the ABP examinations.
- Learn how to optimize study time.

FACULTY:


Betsy Bennett MD, PhD

Pathology Residents
Certification Support
Certification Support
1.0 CME/CMLE Credit


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What You Need to Know
for the AP/CP Boards




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Requirements for Certification by the ABP

- ✦ Licensure
- ✦ Training
- ✦ Examination

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What is the purpose of the ABP examination?

- ✦ To demonstrate to the ABP that a candidate has sufficient knowledge in a particular area of pathology to practice competently and independently.
- ✦ Pass/fail

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What do the ABP examinations cover?

- ✖ Anatomic Pathology
 - + General Pathology
 - + Systemic Pathology
 - + Laboratory Management

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What do the ABP examinations cover?

- ✖ Anatomic Pathology
 - + Autopsy and Forensic Pathology
 - + Surgical Pathology
 - + Cytopathology
 - + Laboratory Management

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What do the ABP examinations cover?


- ✖ Clinical Pathology
 - + Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
 - + Chemical Pathology
 - + Hematology
 - + Medical Microbiology
 - + Laboratory Management

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What do the ABP examinations cover?

ACGME General Competencies


- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Practice based learning and improvement
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
- Systems based practice

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What do the ABP exams cover?


ACGME General Competencies

- Patient Care X
- Medical Knowledge X
- Practice based learning and improvement
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
- Systems based practice x

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ABP Examinations -- Relation to Practice

- ✗ Depends on whom you ask
 - + Candidates – not so well
 - + Test committee members – very well

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ABP Test Development and Advisory Committees

- ✦ Anatomic Pathology
- ✦ Blood Banking/TM
- ✦ Chemical Pathology
- ✦ Cytopathology
- ✦ Forensic Pathology
- ✦ Dermatopathology
- ✦ Hematology
- ✦ Lab Management
- ✦ Medical Microbiology
- ✦ Molecular Genetic Path
- ✦ Neuropathology
- ✦ Pediatric Pathology

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How are ABP Examinations Developed?

- ✦ Test committees meet annually with each member submitting questions for review by the committee.
- ✦ Committee accepts questions (including images) with or without modification.
- ✦ Question goes into item bank.
- ✦ One or more trustees select items from the item bank according to a blueprint.

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ABP Anatomic Pathology Examination

- ✦ Written 141 questions; 2.25 hrs
- ✦ Practical
 - + Images 108 questions; 1.75 hrs
 - + Microscopic/Virtual 50/25 questions; 3.5 hrs


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Examination Content – Anatomic Pathology

- ✦ Gen Path, Lab Mgmt – 6%
- ✦ Systemic Pathology – 94%
 - + Breast
 - + Alimentary tract
 - + Female genital tract
 - + Respiratory tract
 - + Skin
 - + Hematology
 - + Molecular (distributed)
 - + Cytopathology


7-9%

16%

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Examination Content – Anatomic Pathology

- ✦ Images
 - + Gross specimens
 - + Histopathologic specimens
 - + Electron Micrographs
 - + Karyotypes
 - + Pedigrees
 - + Molecular pathology preparations
 - + Cytopathology specimens

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ABP – Clinical Pathology Examination

- ✦ Written ✦ 130 questions; 2 hrs.
- ✦ Practical
 - + CP I (practical) ✦ 110 questions; 3.25 hrs
 - + CP II (practical with images) ✦ 120 questions; 2 hrs

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Examination Content – Clinical Pathology

✖ BB/TM	✖ 23%
✖ Chemical Pathology (includes immunopath)	✖ 20%
✖ Hematology	✖ 25%
✖ Medical Microbiology	✖ 22%
✖ Laboratory Mgmt	✖ 10%
✖ Molecular Genetic Path (distributed)	✖ 7-9%

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Examination Content – Clinical Pathology

- ✖ Practical Exam with Images –hematology and microbiology
 - + Peripheral blood smears
 - + Bone marrow smears and/or sections
 - + Lymphoid tissue from various sites
 - + Platelet aggregation studies
 - + Microbiology plates
 - + Stains of organisms – Gram, GMS, etc
 - + Biochemical reactions
 - + Molecular pathology preparations

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Examination Content – Clinical Pathology

- + Practical Exam – Chemical Pathology, Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine, Laboratory Management
 - ✖ Cell panels
 - ✖ Graphs and Charts
 - ✖ Immunopathology tests – ANA, etc
 - ✖ Molecular pathology preparations

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ABP Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Examinations

- ✦ Candidates must pass both written and practical portions of the examination in the same administration.
- ✦ All questions are multiple choice, one-best answer format.

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How to Prepare for Board Examinations

- ✦ Make the most of each rotation as you go through it
 - + No substitute for laboratory experience in CP
- ✦ Begin studying for boards several months ahead
 - + Draw up a schedule based on what you know are your strengths/weaknesses with time allowed at the end for more review of identified weak areas
 - + Stick to the schedule

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How to Prepare for Board Examinations

- ✦ Practice Questions
 - + ASCP Rise
 - + Question books
- ✦ Reference Books
 - + General Pathology and Autopsy – Robbins
 - + Surgical Pathology
 - + Cytopathology
 - + Clinical Pathology - Henry

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What Does a Review Course Do?

- ✖ Costs you more money
- ✖ Organizes your time
- ✖ May help identify weaknesses
- ✖ Little, if any, actual teaching



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Summary and Questions



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