



THORACIC SURGERY DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION 2012 IN-TRAINING EXAM

General Information

The 2012 TSDA In-Training Exam (ITE) for residents in thoracic surgery will be given on Saturday, April 14, 2012. The exam must be launched by each program no earlier than 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in each respective time zone and is to be completed within a 4.5 hour period (at the Program Director's discretion).

Program Director/Proctor/Coordinator Responsibility

The Program Director is responsible for administering, proctoring, and maintaining a secure environment for the examination. The ITE must be administered and taken at the program training site; access from a remote site will disqualify the examinee. If the Program Director is unable to proctor the exam, a Board-certified thoracic surgeon must be selected to administer/proctor the exam in lieu of the Program Director. **Exam proctors must be present for the duration of the exam on exam day.**

TSDA relies on the Program Director and Program Coordinator for consistent, accurate information, and timely processing of order forms and payment. Please ensure the contact person from the residency program office is aware of the information contained herein and has a copy for his/her files.

Registration

The fee for the 2012 ITE is \$350 per registrant. TSDA does not accept credit card payment or purchase orders. The fee must be paid prior to the exam date and is not refundable, except by special arrangement prior to the first date of the exam. The registration deadline is Friday, February 17, 2012. Registration materials are also available for download in the In-Training Exam section of www.tsda.org.

ITE Residents Survey

Registered test takers must complete the ITE Residents Survey by March 31, 2012. Residents will be sent an invitation to complete the survey via e-mail. Test takers who have not taken the ITE Residents Survey may not be able to access the ITE on exam day. Test takers will also be invited to participate in a post-exam survey.

Exam Format

The ITE will consist of 164 questions equally divided between general thoracic and cardiac surgery. The ITE is offered only as a computer-based exam at the program site, and is to be completed within a 4.5 hour period once the test is launched (at the Program Director's discretion). Examination questions are provided in random order for each examinee.

Proctor and Test-Taker Records

The TSDA office will create a record in the ITS system for each program that will registers test takers for the ITE. TSDA will also create a record for each program coordinator or other contact person listed on the ITE Registration Form. The program coordinator or other main contact will be responsible for logging into their program in the ITS system, and creating a record for the exam proctor (Program Director or otherwise). Each individual test taker will be responsible for logging in and creating their user record. Additional information and instructions about these important steps will be sent under separate cover.

Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing

Through the American Board of Surgery, the TSDA will be utilizing Internet Testing Systems (ITS) to administer the 2012 ITE on April 14 and April 21. It is the Program Director's/proctor's/coordinator's responsibility to ensure their institution's operating system will function properly on exam day. Program Directors/proctors/coordinators should review the **Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing**, share with their institution's IT administrator, and ensure that all of the necessary equipment, Internet, firewall and other requirements are met. Visit www.absite.programworkshop.com to view Frequently Asked Questions. (Log in is not required to view Frequently Asked Questions.) The Program Director/proctor/coordinator is responsible for running a System Test to ensure operating systems are compatible. Additional information about the System Test will be sent under separate cover.

The following system specifications will provide the best online testing experience. The specifications which must be met are noted with an asterisk. All other specifications are recommendations.

Windows Computers:

Supported Browser:	Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher and the ABS Browser for Windows
Operating System:	Windows 2000 and above
Processor:	233 MHz or higher Intel Pentium/Celeron family, or AMD K6/Althlon/Duron family; or compatible processor
RAM:	128 MB or higher
Display:	1024 x 768 with 16-bit color or higher
Internet Connection:	High-Speed Internet connection

Macintosh Computers:

Supported Browser:	Apple Safari 2.0 or higher and the Secure Browser for Mac OS X
Operating System:	Mac OS X 10.4 and higher
Processor:	PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor; or Intel-based Mac
RAM:	256 MB or higher
Display:	1024 x 768 with 16-bit color or higher
Internet Connection:	High-Speed Internet connection

All Computers Used for Sample Tests:

Pop-Up Blockers:	Pop-up blockers must allow pop-up windows from the testing site
Cookies:	Cookies must be enabled

A series of e-mail messages will be sent to the Program Director/proctor/coordinator with step-by-step instructions on how to run the System Test, and launch and log out of the exam.

Performance Reports/Comparative Results

After completing the ITE, residents will receive immediate feedback on their performance consisting of their raw score. Comparative results will be available to Program Directors four to six weeks following the back-up exam date of April 21, 2012 (approximately late May or early June). Percentile ranks will relate the performance of all examinees, and residents in the same residency year.

Backup Date

The backup exam on April 21, 2012 is for those who experience technical difficulties the day of the exam or by pre-arrangement through the TSDA office.

For additional information about the ITE, contact Beth Winer, TSDA Senior Manager, at bwiner@tsda.org or 312-202-5855.