2017 IN-TRAINING EXAM
FOR CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY RESIDENTS

General Information

The 2017 TSDA In-Training Exam (ITE) for cardiothoracic surgery residents will be held on Saturday, March 11 with a backup exam date of Saturday, March 18. Back up date arrangements must be pre-approved by TSDA Headquarters.

On exam day, the ITE must be launched between the following U.S. time zones:

- 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time;
- 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central Time;
- 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time; or
- 5:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Once the exam has been launched, examinees will have up to five hours to complete the exam; however, it is the proctor’s responsibility to enforce a time limit if one has been established by the Program Director.

Registration

The fee for the 2017 ITE is $350 per examinee in the U.S. and Canada, and $500 per test taker outside the U.S. and Canada. Programs are required to register cardiothoracic surgery residents, and are also welcome to register general surgery residents. TSDA does not accept credit card payment or purchase orders. The fee must be paid in U.S. funds prior to the exam date and is not refundable. The registration deadline is Friday, January 27, 2017. Registration materials are also available for download on the 2017 In-Training Exam page of TSDA.org. Fax and e-mail copies of the forms are acceptable. Program Coordinators and/or Program Directors are strongly encouraged to keep copies for their files. Payment by check must be received prior to the exam date, or exam results will be withheld. TSDA does not accept credit card payment or purchase orders. Invoices will be sent to programs upon request only.

The U.S./Canadian Registration Form includes three sections for registering test takers for the ITE. It is imperative that the person completing the registration form enters test taker data in the correct section. The PGY year should indicate the test taker’s Post Graduate Year following medical school.

- **CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY RESIDENTS** are those who are currently enrolled in traditional or integrated ACGME-accredited cardiothoracic surgery residency program or the Canadian equivalent. TSDA-member programs are required to register their residents for the TSDA In-Training Exam.
  - **TRADITIONAL U.S. residents**: PGY 6, 7 or 8
  - **INTEGRATED U.S. residents**: PGY 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8
  - **CANADIAN residents**: PGY 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6

- **FELLOWS or NON-ACGME TRAINEES** are those who have completed their cardiothoracic surgery residency program and are enrolled in a fellowship (ACGME-accredited or non ACGME-accredited) at a hospital/institution with an ACGME-accredited cardiothoracic surgery residency program. This registration category is optional.
  - **FELLOWS**: PGY 9, 10, etc.

- **GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS** are those who are enrolled in a general surgery residency program at a hospital/institution with an ACGME-accredited cardiothoracic surgery residency program, or General Surgery Residents enrolled in a 4/3 cardiothoracic surgery residency track in PGY 1-4 at an ACGME-accredited cardiothoracic surgery residency program. This registration category is optional.
  - **GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS**: PGY 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5
The International Registration Form includes one section for registering test takers for the ITE. It is imperative that the person completing the registration form enters test taker data.

- **INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS** (outside U.S. and Canada) are those residents who are enrolled in an accredited cardiothoracic surgery program outside the U.S. or Canada.
  - R1, R2, etc.

**Proctor Responsibilities**
The exam proctor is responsible for administering, proctoring, and maintaining a secure environment for the duration of the examination. The ITE must be administered and taken at the program training site, and must be actively proctored; access from a remote site will disqualify the examinee. If the Program Director is unable to proctor the exam, he/she must assign a member of the CT surgery residency program department (faculty or staff member) to administer and 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.

**Proctor and Test-Taker Records**
Through the American Board of Surgery (ABS), TSDA will be utilizing Internet Testing Systems (ITS) to administer the exam. ITS will create a record in the Program Workshop for each program that registers test takers for the ITE. ITS 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 pre-exam readiness activities. Additional information and instructions about these important steps will be sent to Program Directors, Program Coordinators, and exam proctors prior to the exam date.

**Pre-and Post-ITE Residents Surveys**
Residents enrolled in ACGME-accredited programs registered for the ITE must complete the Pre-ITE Residents Survey by March 6, 2017. Residents will be sent an e-mail invitation to complete the survey. Examinees who have not taken the ITE Residents Survey may not be able to access the ITE on exam day. Program Directors and Program Coordinators will be copied on reminder messages sent to residents who have not completed the survey leading up to the exam day. International residents are not required to complete the Pre-ITE Residents Survey. All examinees 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 5-hour period once the test is launched (at the Program Director’s discretion). Examination questions are provided in random order for each examinee.

**Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing**
Through the American Board of Surgery, the TSDA will be utilizing Internet Testing Systems (ITS) to administer the 2017 ITE on March 11 and March 18. It is the responsibility of the Program Director/Program Coordinator and/or proctor to ensure their institution’s operating system will function properly on exam day. Below are the Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing. Please review carefully, share with your institution’s IT administrator, and ensure that all of the necessary equipment, Internet, firewall, and other requirements are met. Visit [www.absite.programworkshop.com](http://www.absite.programworkshop.com) to view Frequently Asked Questions. (Log in is not required to view the FAQ page.) The Program Director, Program Coordinator, and/or proctor are 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.
Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing:

**Windows Computers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supported Browser*:</th>
<th>Microsoft Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher and the ABS Browser for Windows</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating System:</td>
<td>Windows 7 and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor:</td>
<td>233 MHz or higher Intel Pentium/Celeron family, or AMD K6/Althlon/Duron family; or compatible processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM:</td>
<td>128 MB or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display*:</td>
<td>1024 x 768 with 16-bit color or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Connection:</td>
<td>High-Speed Internet connection</td>
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</tbody>
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**Macintosh Computers:**

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<tr>
<th>Supported Browser*:</th>
<th>Apple Safari 6.0 or higher and the Secure Browser for Mac OS X</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating System:</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.6 and higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor:</td>
<td>PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor; or Intel-based Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM:</td>
<td>256 MB or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display*:</td>
<td>1024 x 768 with 16-bit color or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Connection:</td>
<td>High-Speed Internet connection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**iPads:**

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<tr>
<th>Supported Browser*:</th>
<th>Apple Safari and the ABS iPad app</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operating System:</td>
<td>iOS 6 (iPad 2) and higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Connection:</td>
<td>High-Speed Internet connection</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**All Computers Used for Sample Tests:**

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<tr>
<th>Pop-Up Blockers:</th>
<th>Pop-up blockers must allow pop-up windows from the testing site</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cookies:</td>
<td>Cookies must be enabled</td>
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**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 six to eight weeks following the back-up exam date of March 18. Percentile ranks will relate the performance of all examinees, and residents in the same residency year. **Exam results will be withheld from a program until full payment is received by TSDA.**

**Backup Date**

The backup exam on March 18 is for those who experience technical difficulties the day of the exam or by pre-arrangement through the TSDA Headquarters.
Questions?
Contact TSDA Headquarters with any questions.
Beth Winer, Executive Director, bwiner@tsda.org, 312-202-5855
Rachel Pebworth, Affiliate Manager, rpebworth@sts.org, 312-202-5835

Technical Support
Any questions regarding system functionality should be directed to ITS Technical Support group at 800-514-8494 (443-573-8399 for Canadian and international programs) or ABSsupport@testsys.com. Technical Support is available Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET, and during Saturday testing administrations from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET.