



ABA Update

**SAAAPM 2024 Annual Meeting
AASPD**

John Fiadjoe, M.D., ABA Secretary

Mohammed Minhaj, M.D., MBA, ABA Director

Ann Harman, PhD, Chief Assessment Officer



Our Mission

To advance the highest standards of the practice of anesthesiology



Our Vision

To transform certification to shape the future of anesthesiology



Our Director Values



Serve the Specialty



Listen and Engage



Lead the Way to Elevate Standards

Our Board of Directors



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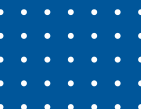
Thank You



Subspecialty Exam Eligibility

Registration requirements for the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) subspecialty exams vary by exam, but generally include:

- **Valid medical license:** An unrestricted medical license in at least one state or province in the United States or Canada
- **ABA certification:** At least one ABA certification
- **MOCA requirements:** Meeting the MOCA requirements
- **Clinical activity:** Demonstrating current clinical activity in the relevant subspecialty
- **Eligibility pathway:** Meeting one of the eligibility pathways for the exam



Subspecialty Exam Eligibility

Basic

2024 Fall Exam
Nov. 1-2

2025 Summer Exam
June 6-7

Advanced

2025 Winter Exam
Jan. 17-18

2025 Summer Exam
July 18-19

APPLIED

SOE OSCE

2025 Exam Weeks

March 3-7

March 31-April 4

April 28-May 2

May 19-23

Sept. 8-12

Oct. 20-24

Subspecialty

Critical Care Medicine (CCM)	Pain Medicine (PM)	Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM)	Sleep Medicine (SM)
Pediatric Anesthesiology (PA)	Neurocritical Care (NCC)	Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology (ACA)	Health Care Administration, Leadership and Management (HALM)

Pediatric Anesthesiology 2024
Oct. 26

ABA would prioritize fellows taking the APPLIED to ensure they were certified before their subspecialty exam

Subspecialty Exam Eligibility – New Policy

Beginning with fellows enrolled in an ACGME program as of July 1, 2024, fellows will be able to:

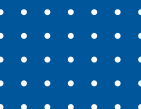
- Register for the APPLIED exam
- Register for their subspecialty exam
- Take both exams within the same year regardless of their APPLIED exam date
- If a subspecialty exam occurs before the APPLIED Exam, candidates may bank subspecialty scores until they pass the APPLIED exam or until the candidate's duration expires



New Policy!
Now Effective

Absence from Training Policy Form Update

- Absence from Training Policy states that, “*The request must include: (1) the reason for the absence training request (serious medical illness, military family leave, parental or family leave covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act would be reasons acceptable to the ABA)*”
- We have updated the ATP form to remove “*Unexpected Family Death*” to align with FMLA policy



Reduced PD Paperwork Residents' and Fellows' Training Away Requests

- We are removing the requirement that program directors inform the ABA about residents' and fellows' training away of four weeks or less for:
 - Established international rotations
 - ASA advocacy rotations or Texas advocacy rotations
 - If all Clinical Competence Committee (CCC) reports are satisfactory
 - Training away does not occur during the CA-1 year or first month of a fellowship
 - Previously approved training away rotations and newly requested rotations combined do not exceed one-month cumulative
- Full language and policy will be available in the 2025 Policy Book

New Policy!

Effective:
Jan. 1, 2025



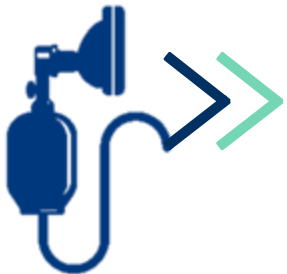
2025 & 2026 In-Training-Exam Registration Dates

	Exam Name	Code	Exam Date(s)	Registration Window	Late Registration Window
2025	ITE-Anesthesiology	ITE-A	Feb. 6-10	Nov. 1-30, 2024	Dec. 1-13, 2024
	ITE-Pediatric Anesthesiology	ITE-Peds	Feb. 20-22	Dec. 2-19, 2024	-
	ITE-Critical Care Medicine	ITE-CCM	March 13-15	Jan. 20-Feb. 21, 2025	-
	ITE-Pain Medicine	ITE-PM	March 20-22	Jan. 20-Feb. 21, 2025	-
2026	ITE-Anesthesiology	ITE-A	Feb. 5-9	-	-
	ITE-Pediatric Anesthesiology	ITE-Peds	Feb. 19-21	-	-
	ITE-Critical Care Medicine	ITE-CCM	March 12-14	-	-
	ITE-Pain Medicine	ITE-PM	March 19-21	-	-

Our Strategic Plan

OCTOBER 19, 2024

ABA Announces New 2025–2030 Strategic Plan



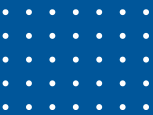
Our Mission

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Our Vision

To transform certification to shape the future of anesthesiology



Read Our Strategic Plan

We encourage you to view the entire plan on our website here:



Assessment Updates



Three-Option Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)

- A study conducted by the ABA concluded that there were minimal changes in physician performance and psychometric properties when changing MCQs from 4- to 3-option
 - In 2020, we piloted the 3-option MCQs for subspecialty in training examinations (ITE-CCM and ITE-PA)
 - The 3-option MCQs were transformed from their 4-option counterparts (administered in 2019) by removing the least effective distractor
- 3-option MCQs have the added benefit of efficiency in item development and administration

We successfully transitioned:

- Critical Care Medicine and Pediatric Anesthesiology Exams in 2020
- Pain Medicine Exam in 2022
- ITE-Anes, BASIC and ADVANCED Exams in 2023

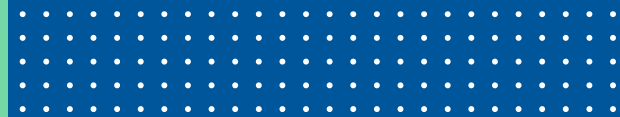
Subspecialty Assessment Updates

2023 ACA Exam Results

- Standard 2023: 68.5% (Scale Score = 150)
- Key validation eliminated eleven items
- Reliability: 0.74
- Inaugural exam in 2023

1,153
candidates
examined

97.2%
of candidates
passed

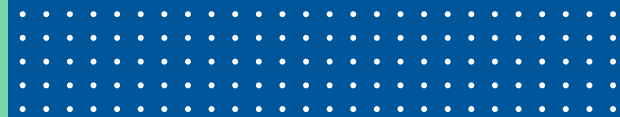


2023 CCM Exam Results

- Standard 2020: 66.0% (Scale Score = 187)
- Key validation eliminated four items
- Reliability: 0.88

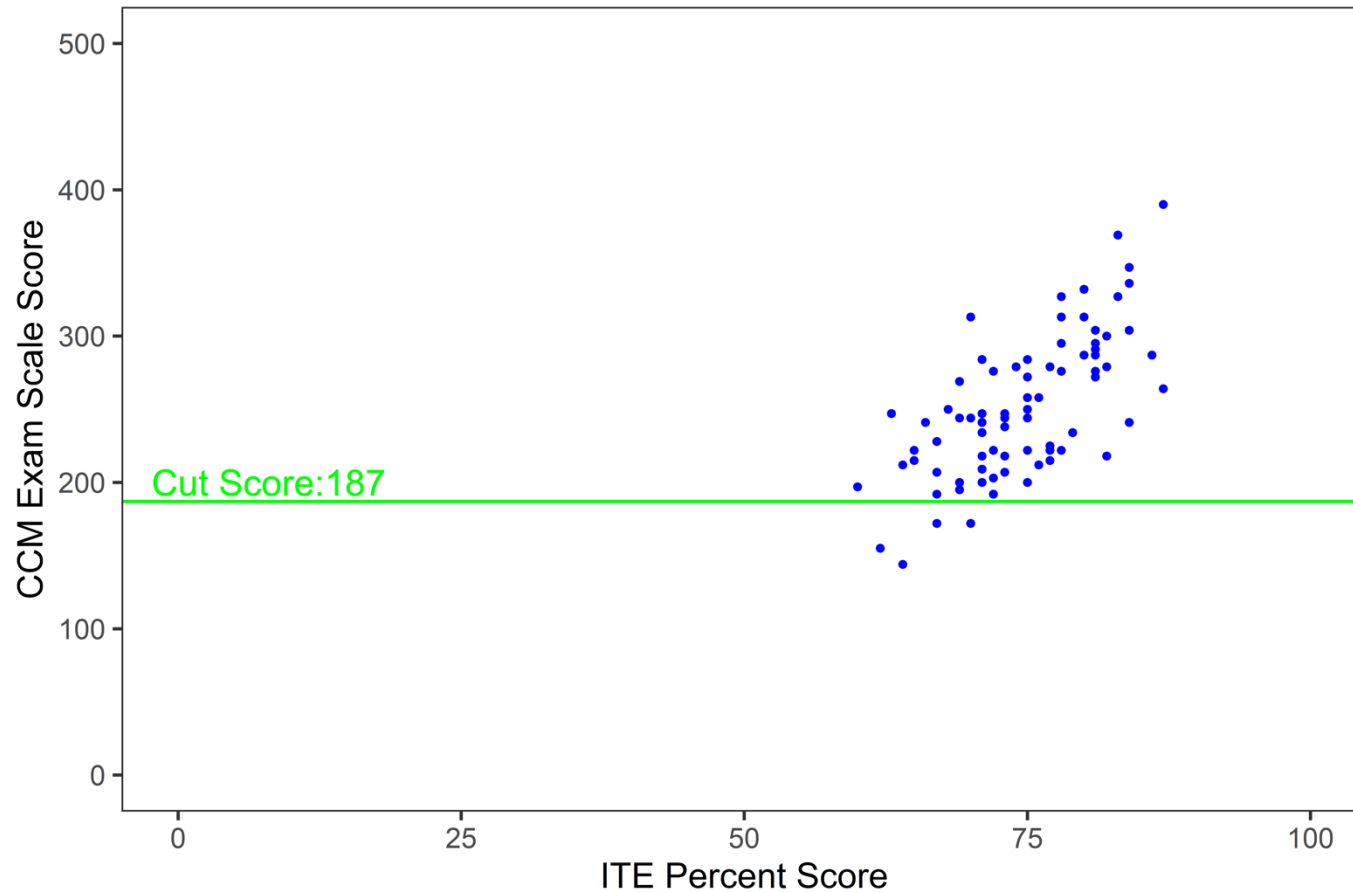
187
candidates
examined

79.7%
of candidates
passed



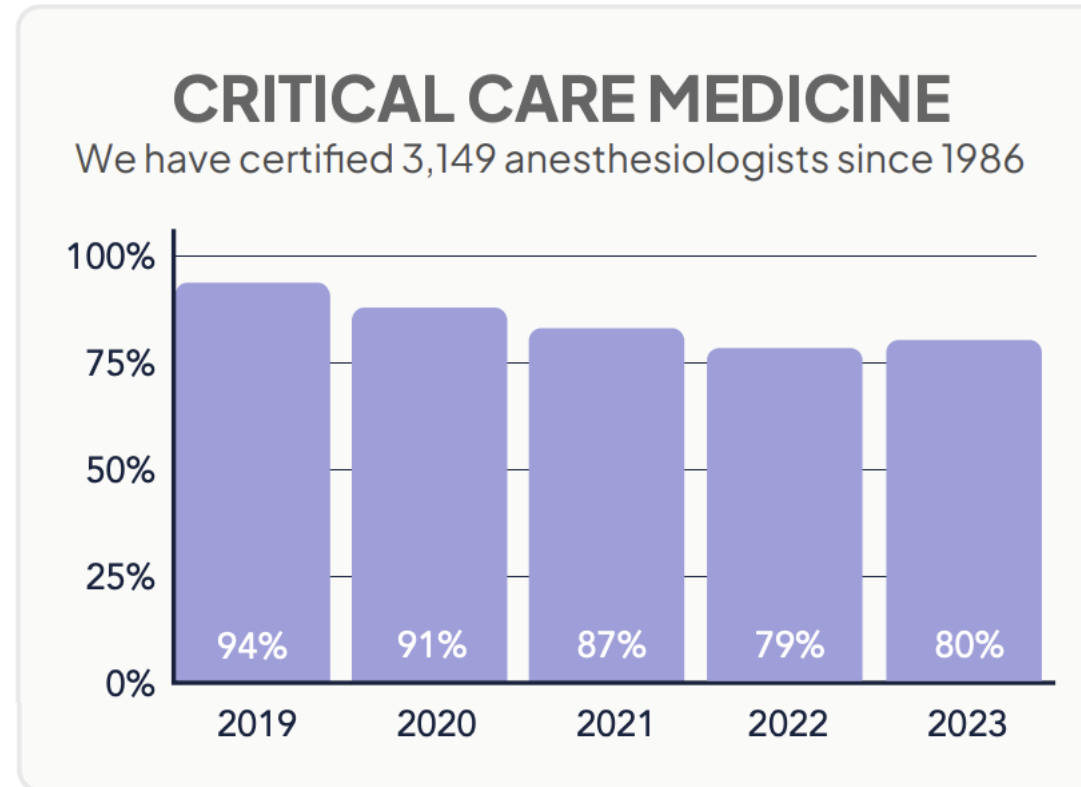
Relation of Scores

2023 ITE Through CCM Exam



The correlation between 2023 ITE-CCM scaled scores and 2023 CCM Exam scaled Scores is 0.69 (n=80, p < 0.001)

CCM Success Rates



Success rates for all candidates (first-time takers and re-takers)

2023 Pediatric Anesthesiology (PA) Exam Results

- All 3-options items since 2020
- New Standard since 2020: Scale Score = 186
- Key validation eliminated 4 items from the form
- Reliability: 0.76

*: based on recent graduates only.

226

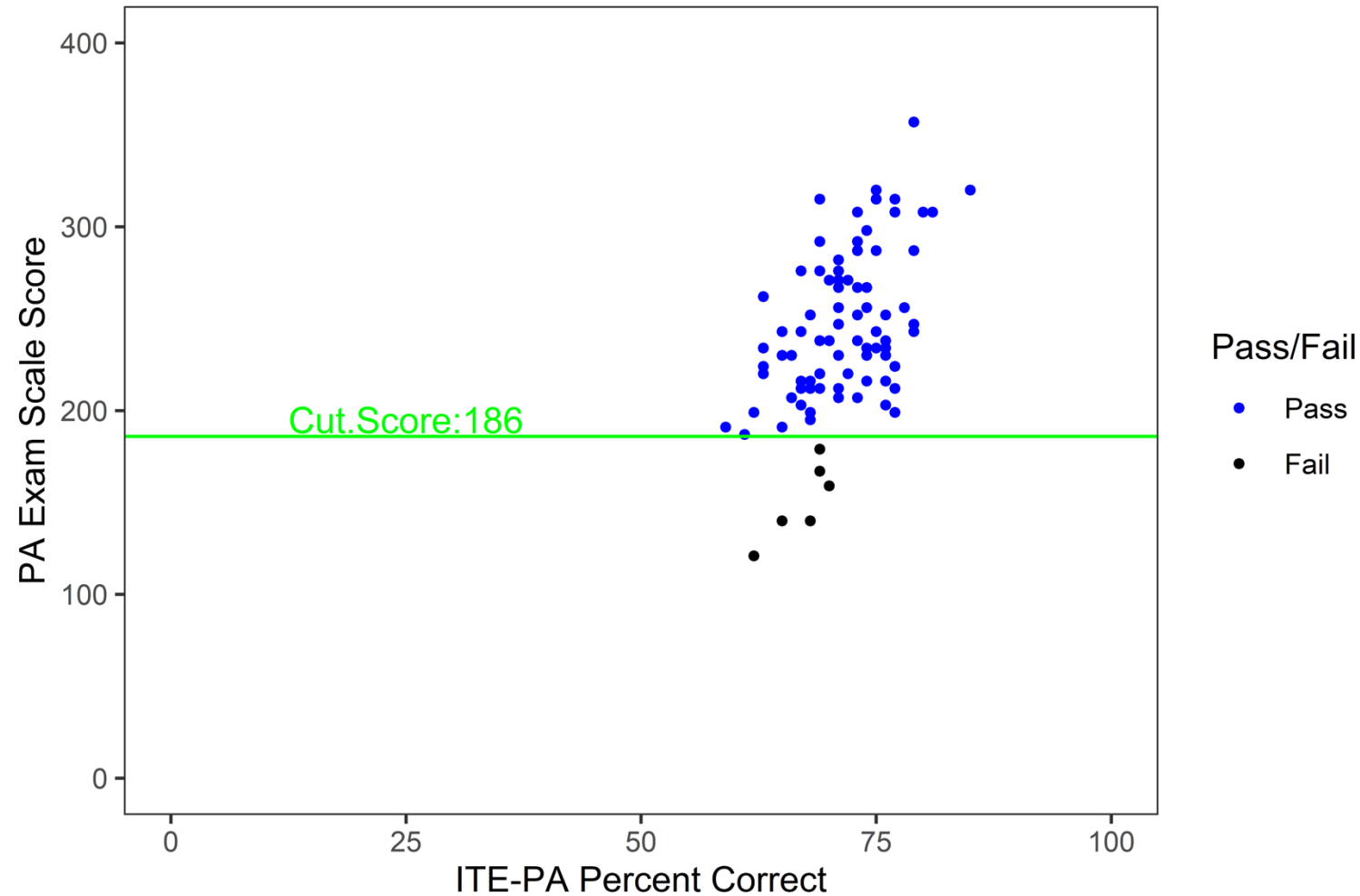
candidates*
examined

84.1%

of candidates*
passed

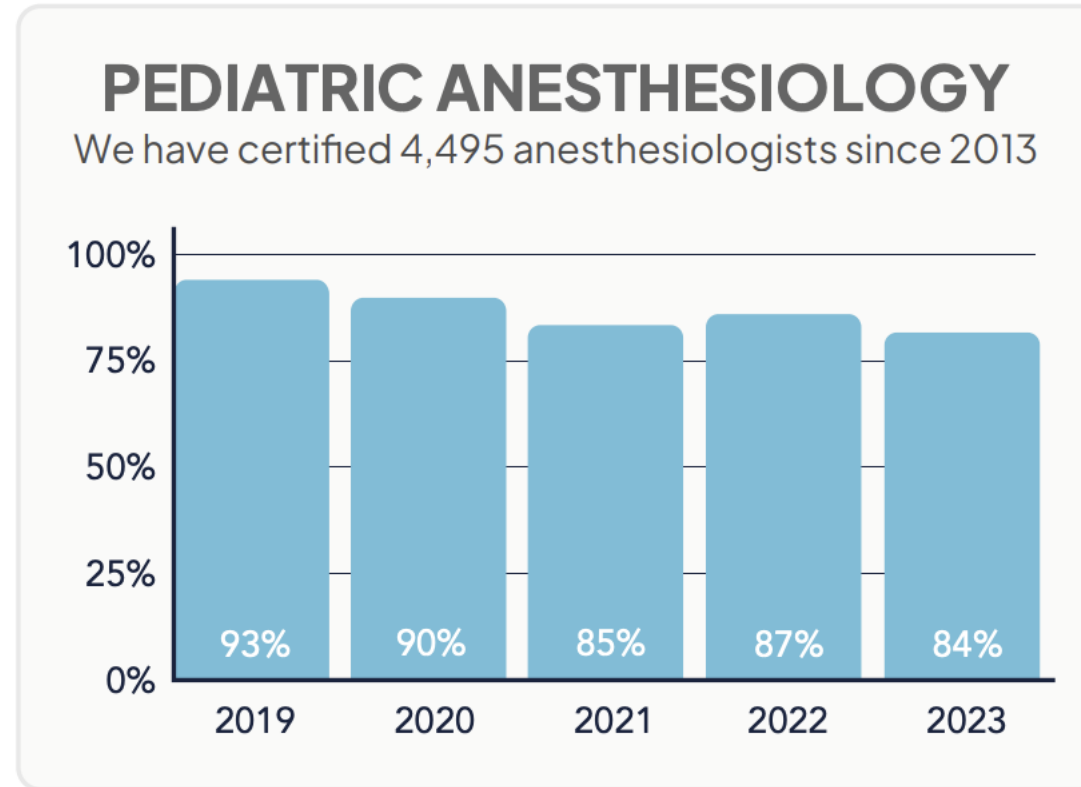
Relation of Scores

2023 ITE-PA vs 2023 PA Exam



The correlation between 2023 ITE-PA percent correct and 2023 PA Exam Scale Scores is 0.53, $p < 0.001$. (N = 91)

PA Success Rates



Success rates for all candidates (first-time takers and re-takers)

2023 Pain Medicine (PM) Exam Results

- All 3-options items since 2022
- New Standard since 2022: 69.5% (Scale Score = 193)
- Key validation eliminated 7 items from the form
- Reliability: 0.77

*: based on recent graduates only.

299

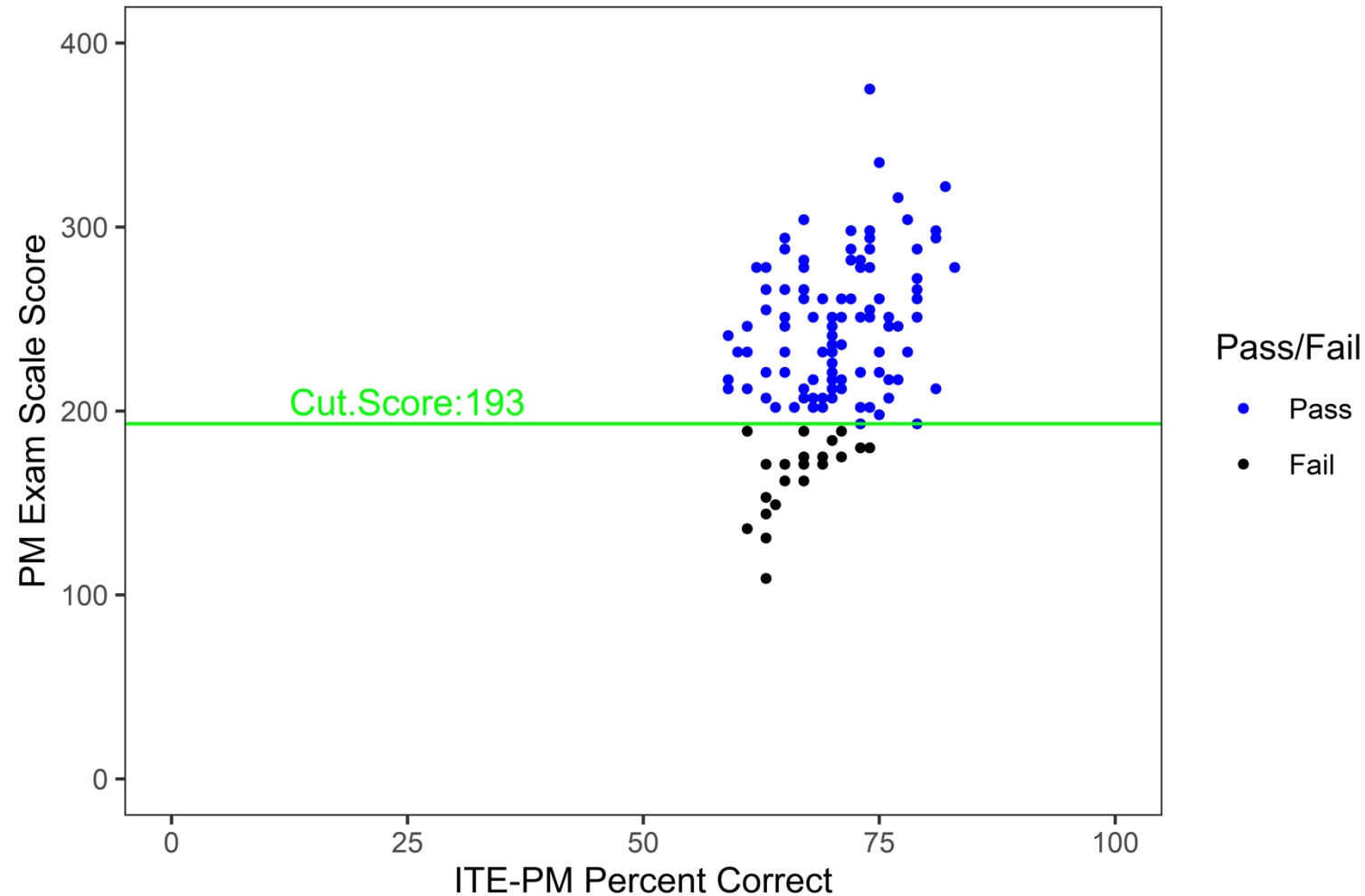
candidates*
examined

76.9%

of candidates*
passed

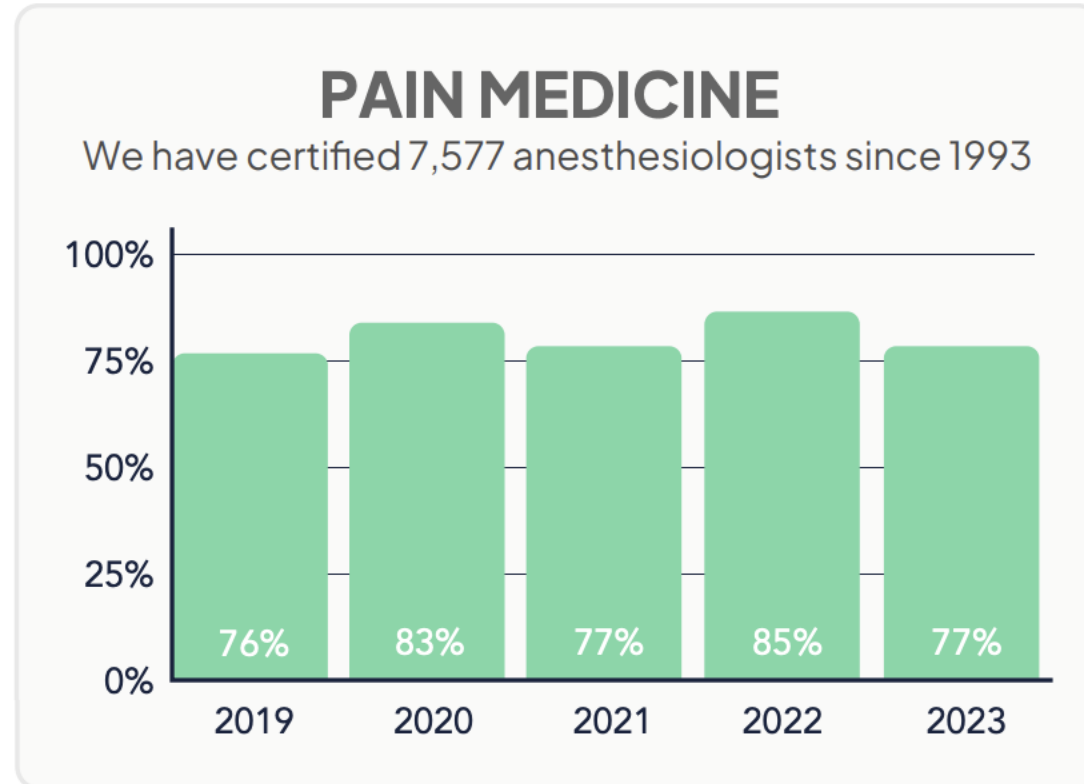
Relation of Scores

2023 ITE-PM vs 2023 PM Exam



The correlation between 2023 ITE-PM percent correct and 2023 PM Exam Scale Scores is 0.39, $p < 0.001$. (N = 123)

PM Success Rates

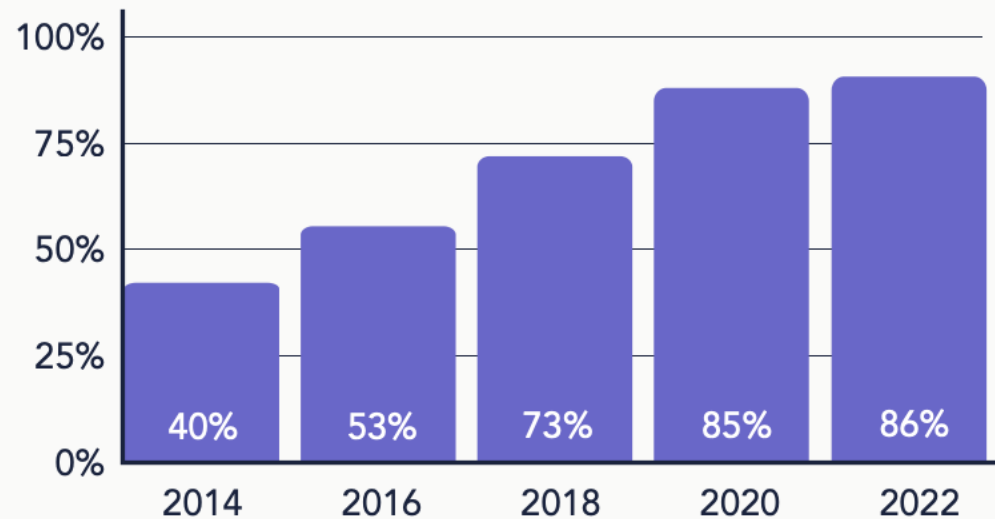


Success rates for all candidates (first-time takers and re-takers)

Success Rates for Exams Administered by The American Board of Internal Medicine

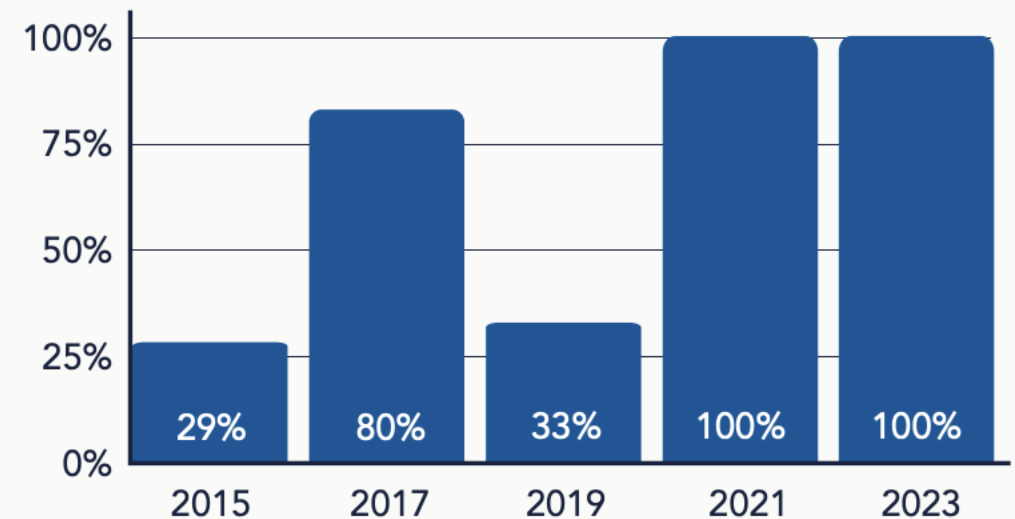
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

We have certified 159 anesthesiologists since 2008*



SLEEP MEDICINE

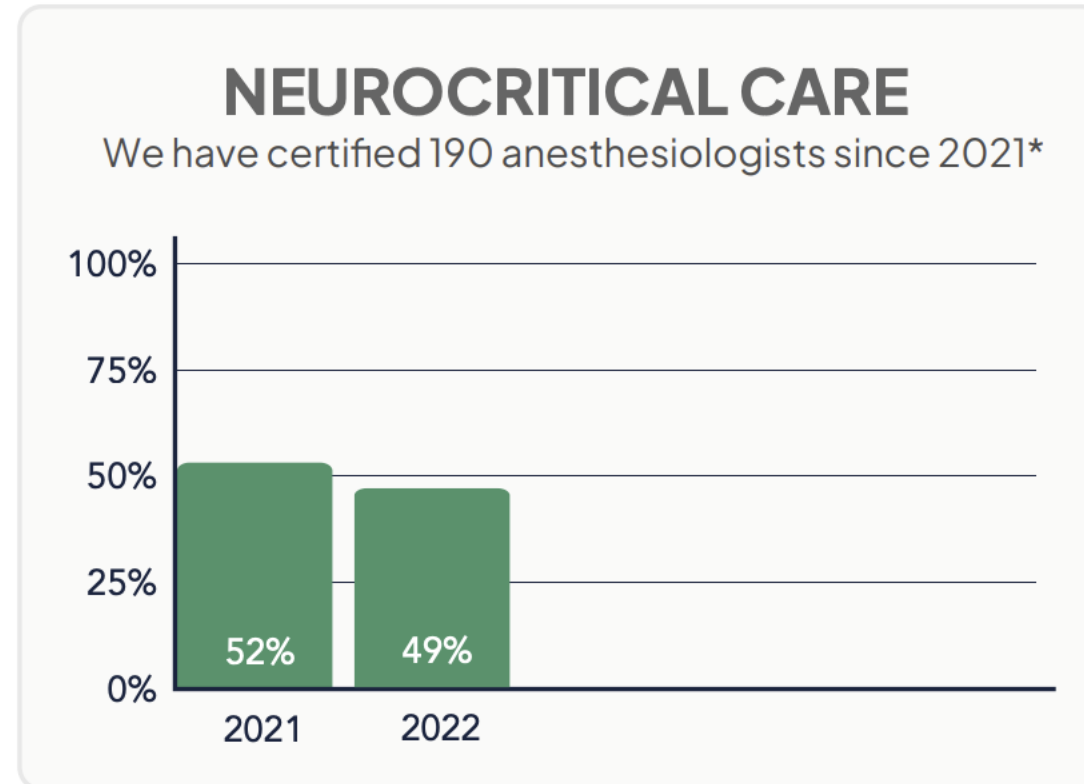
We have certified 23 anesthesiologists since 2011



Success rates for all candidates (first-time takers and re-takers)

*The HPM and NCC Examinations are administered every other year

Success Rates for Exams Administered by The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology



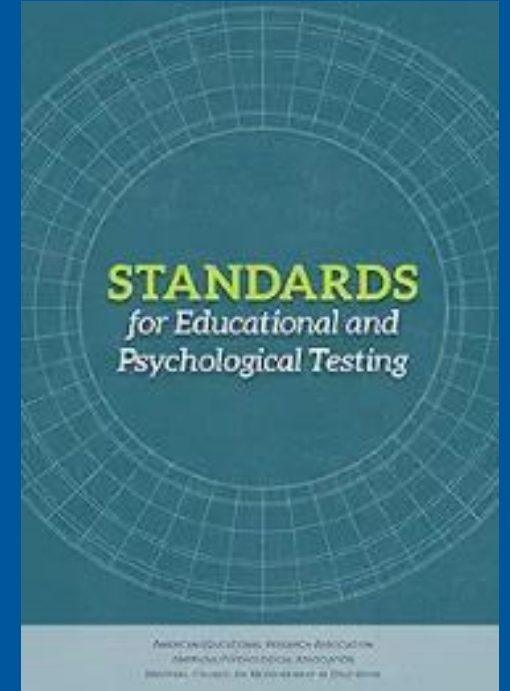
Success rates for all candidates (first-time takers and re-takers)

*The HPM and NCC Examinations are administered every other year

Exam Creation & Scoring

Overview of the Process

- The ABA endeavors to administer exams that meet the highest standards for reliability, validity and fairness
- We adhere to the ***Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*** established by the American Educational Research Association and the American Psychological Association
- We do this in two ways:
 - Through the processes we use to develop our exams
 - Through the post-administration analyses we conduct to assure the quality of our exams and the scores that they produce

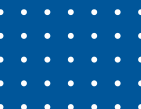


Content Outline & Blueprint

- The ABA's content outlines identify the knowledge, skills and competencies that a diplomate of the ABA is expected to know and be able to do
- Exam blueprints define the relative balance of content on each exam form
- ABA content outlines and blueprints are developed subject matter experts and regularly reviewed for continued currency and relevancy and are updated as needed
- Exam committee members are responsible for reviewing content outlines and blueprints and recommending changes to the ABA's Assessments Committee and Board of Directors (BOD)
- All ABA content outlines and blueprints are posted on the ABA's public website

Exam Committees & Questions Authors

- Exam Committee Members and Question Authors support the development of all ABA exams
- Committee Members review and approve all new items written by the questions authors and work with staff to create, review and approve each exam form before it is administered
- All new Question Authors attend an Item Writing Workshop to learn how to write questions for ABA exams
- New items, once reviewed and approved will go into the ABA's item bank for use on future exam forms



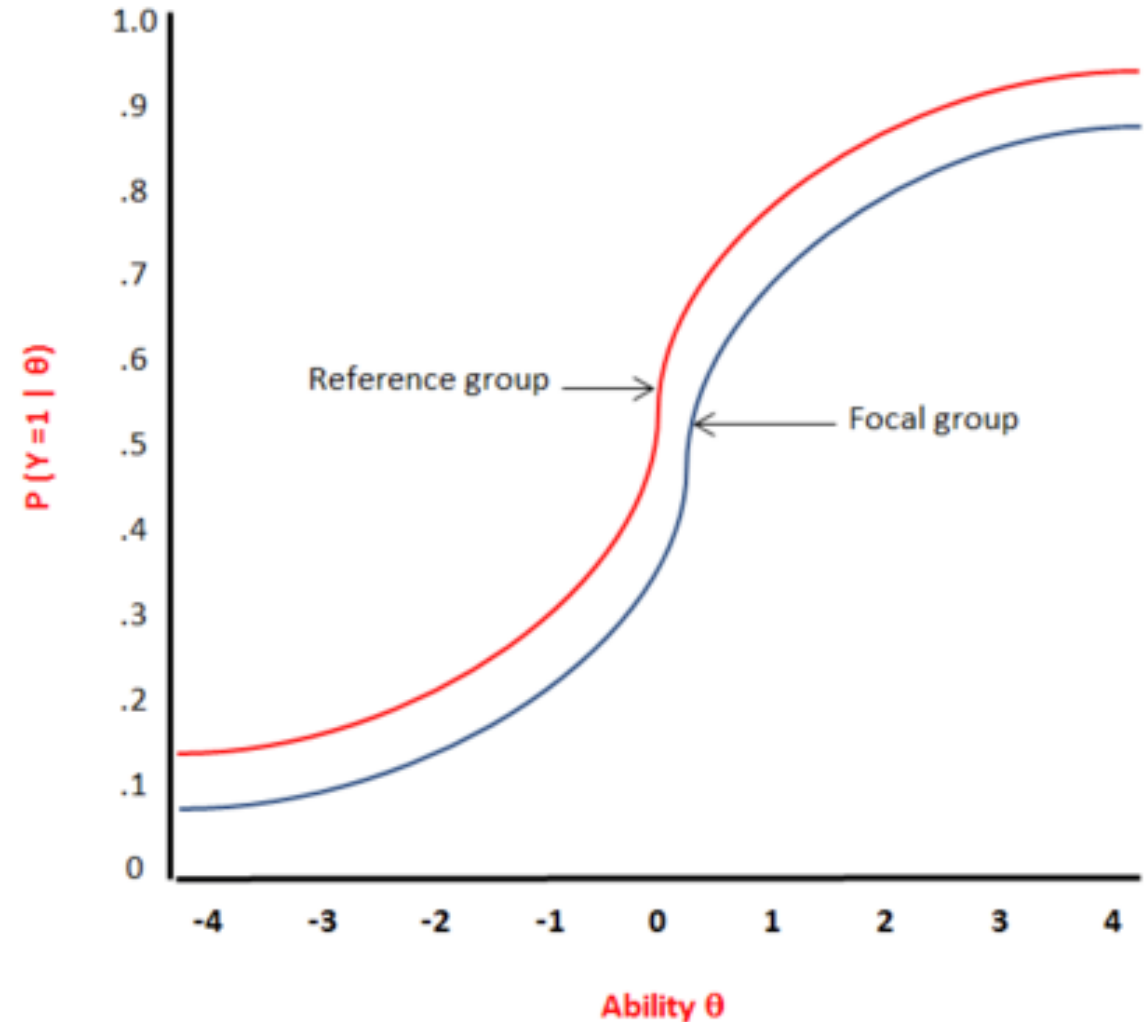
Post-Administration Quality Assurance

- Preliminary Item Analysis (PIA) evaluates each item to see if it is “behaving” as we would expect item that aren’t are flagged for further review by exam committee members
- Exam committees conduct a Key Validation process to review PIA with staff psychometricians prior to finalizing scoring

Item	Question ID	Choice	Percent [%]	r pb	Mean
1	2435	A *	82.9	0.257 **	142.34
		B	12.1	-0.187 **	133.78
		C	1.9	-0.122 **	128.67
		D	3.1	-0.111 **	132.14
		X	0.0	0.000	0.00
		A *	82.9	rc = 0.231 **	142.34

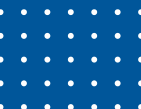
Post-Administration Quality Assurance

- Differential Item Functioning (DIF) Analysis identifies items that are performing differently for two groups of candidates
- Compares members of a focal group (i.e., females) to a reference group (i.e., males) to see whether group members of equal ability have different probabilities of answering the question correctly



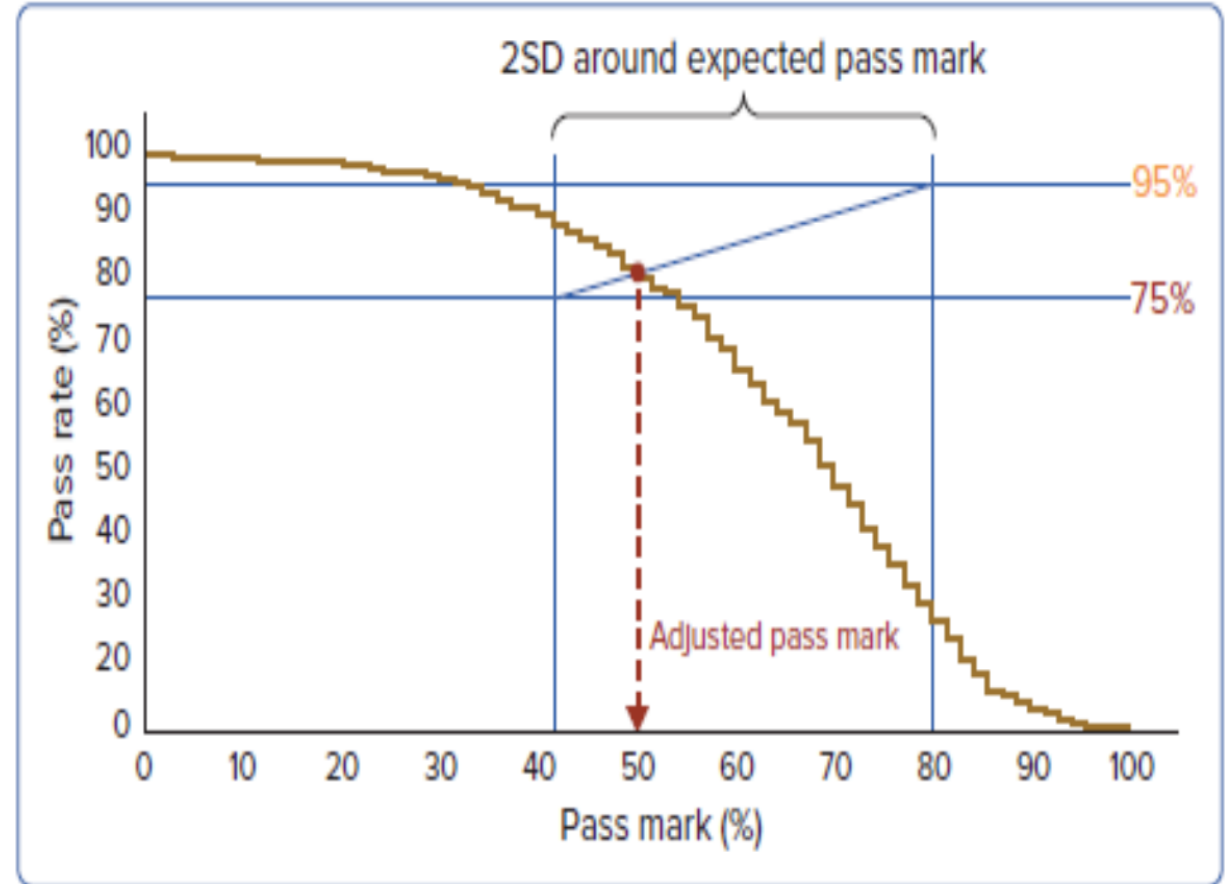
Standard-Setting Study

- All exam performance standards are reviewed and reset ~ every 5 years
- Independent panels of 12 SMEs are recruited for standard-setting studies
- The ABA uses the Hofstee Method, which is a “compromise” standard-setting method; it incorporates both norm- and criterion-referenced judgments
- Standard-setting panels recommend a standard to the ABA Assessments Committee for consideration and, if warranted, adjustment
- The BOD must approve all standards



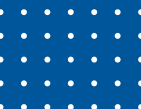
Standard-Setting

- Panelists provide independent judgments of the min. and max. acceptable pass **rate** (norm-referenced) and the min. and max. acceptable passing **score** (criterion-referenced)
- Panelists' independent judgment are averaged, and impact of their combined standard is shown to them



Equating

- The ABA uses common items across exam forms to equate scores across those forms
- This ensures fairness and comparability across different exam forms by adjusting for any potential differences in difficulty across different forms
- Common items (also known as anchor or linking items) are a set of identical questions included in all exam forms
- These items also allow ABA psychometricians to statistically link the different forms and adjust for any differences in difficulty



Questions?



We Are Here To Help.



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