

ASCO In-Training Exam (ITE)

Description

The [Medical Oncology In-Training Exam](#) (MedOnc ITE) is a six-hour, 200 question internet exam and is case-based and multiple choice, with only one correct answer for each question. It is not pass/fail in nature, but a low-stakes exam intended for self-evaluation and program improvement. The goal is to get a snapshot of the training program, as well as trainee knowledge. The exam is available world-wide, and fellows/trainees take it at their home institutions in a formal, proctored environment.

The exam is developed annually in collaboration with the [National Board of Medical Examiners \(NBME\)](#), ASCO Staff, and ASCO's Test Materials Development Committee (TMDC) Working Group. The TMDC Working Group is made up of 12 members each with a specific and different area of expertise. Each member of the TMDC creates 10-15 new exam questions per year.

Why is this data important; what makes it unique?

- Objective measurement of knowledge among current trainees in a manner compliant with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements
- Support to establish consistency in educational standards across training programs
- Provision of a benchmark and a tool to improve training
- Identification of areas of strength and areas for improvement in individual training programs
- Allows program directors to evaluate an individual's progress within the training program
- Allows comparison of results against other trainees, as reported in the score reports

Links to publications

- [Developing an In-Training Examination for Fellows: The Experience of the American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)
- [Medical Knowledge Assessment by Hematology and Medical Oncology In-Training Examinations Are Better Than Program Director Assessments at Predicting Subspecialty Certification Examination Performance](#)
- [ASCO In-Training Exam Score Reports: What You Do with It Matters Most!](#)

Is the data available elsewhere?

This is an ASCO data source and not publicly available elsewhere.

Design

- Online format, 200 questions
- Case-based, multiple choice, one correct answer per question
- Targeting medical oncology trainees and training programs both domestically and internationally

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Variables

The category composite scores for 2019 include the list below, but there is variation from year to year. Please check the data dictionary for each year to see exact.

- Palliative Care/Supportive Care
- Survivorship
- Pharmacology & Anticancer Therapeutics
- Clinical Research Methodology
- Ethics
- Genetics & Tumor Biology
- Hematologic Neoplasms
- Breast Cancer
- Gastrointestinal Cancer
- Thoracic Cancer
- Genitourinary Cancer
- Gynecologic Cancer
- Head, Neck, Thyroid & Central Nervous System Malignancies
- Other Solid Tumors
- Geriatric Oncology Items developed throughout all/any content areas and coded so that they can be scored and evaluated

Sample Size/number of Respondents

- ITE participation has steadily increased over the years, with 100% participation from training programs within the United States
- ASCO has data annually from 2008
- Recent participation:

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Programs | 179 | 200 | 200 | 197 | 196 |
| Total Trainees | 1607 | 1780 | 1821 | 1830 | 1865 |
| Total Program Directors/Faculty | 27 | 36 | 46 | 32 | 34 |
| Total Participation | 1634 | 1816 | 1867 | 1862 | 1899 |

Data Formats

- Excel
- CSV

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Limitations

- Only data that is de-identified will be shared
- This test is not required and does not represent every fellow
- Actual exam questions cannot be shared
- There are fewer than five fellowship training programs with a very large number of fellows relative to other programs. To allow these few fellowship programs that have a very large number of fellows to remain unidentifiable, we randomly selected a subset of fellows from those institutions and removed their ITE results from the dataset.

Data Dictionary

- A practice exam is available [here](#).

Sample Data

- See sample dataset.