



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
ANESTHESIA TECHNOLOGISTS  
AND TECHNICIANS

# Practical Experience Pathway Brochure

The need for credentialed professionals in the field of anesthesia technology has never been higher. For this reason, in collaboration with various stakeholders, the ASATT Board of Directors has decided to develop and launch the Practical Experience Pathway for experienced uncertified technicians to earn eligibility for the National Certification Exam (NCE).

# Practical Experience Pathway

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Practical Experience Pathway (PEP) is a process by which non-certified anesthesia technicians who have worked for a minimum of five-years can complete specific college coursework and professional development training to earn eligibility to challenge the ASATT NCE and become a Certified Anesthesia Technologist (Cer.A.T.T.). The program includes specific domains which must be completed before the applicant can be granted exam eligibility. The program requires the applicant to complete or have completed professional development training in the form of anesthesia specific CEs, and the attainment of ACLS/ALS

accredited by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. For the Practical Experience Pathway, college coursework is not allowed to be substituted for the professional development CEs. CEs may be earned through completion of a Continuing Education program that has obtained prior approval by ASATT or CEs have been approved and processed by ASATT.

Once an applicant is approved for eligibility the applicant has 12-months from the notice of exam eligibility to pass the exam. The applicant is allowed three attempts on the

exam in that 12-month period. If the applicant fails the exam, they will need to reapply to take the exam. In the event the applicant fails the exam three times, they will need to reestablish eligibility. This will require the applicant to earn a new set of 40 CEs and ensure that the college course work is within date. Finally, the applicant will need to submit an application and adjoining fee for eligibility review. Once eligibility is reestablished the applicant will be awarded another 12-month time-frame and the ability to apply for the exam three times.

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility under the practical experience pathway comprises the specific domains listed below. All domains must be completed and approved before eligibility will be granted.

### 1. Minimum number of years in the field as an anesthesia technician in the United States

- Five (5) years in a Level-1 or Level-2 facility(s) OR Seven (7) years in a Tertiary or Outpatient Facility center (i.e., same-day surgery center or similar facility).
- The Continuing Education Committee will review all work experience provided to assess the candidate's eligibility under the first domain.
- If multiple employers are needed to meet the years requirement official HR documents from each employer will need to be submitted for verification.

### 2. Minimum Education and Professional Development Requirements (College course work cannot be substituted for CEs in the Practical Experience Pathway)

- Completion of continuing education credits/coursework. A minimum of 40 CEs are required following the domains laid out in Appendix A (pages 4-6). 1. CEs will be reviewed for applicability and compliance with ASATT's published standards. 2. CEs must be earned on topics outlined in the three criterions from Appendix A (pages 4-6).
- Valid ACLS/ALS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) credentials accredited by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross at the time of application.
- ASATT does not assess third-party fees to applicants who completed coursework through an academic program or programs that have submitted CE curriculum for review and earned prior approval from the Continuing Education Committee.

### 3. Complete the application for review of eligibility Standards and submit to ASATT for review

- Before exam eligibility can be granted, the applicant must submit an Practice Experience Pathway (PEP) application with the corresponding fee (\$200) for document processing. If approved, the applicant will be given a 12-month window to apply and pass the ASATT NCE Certified Anesthesia Technologist exam. The applicant will have three opportunities to pass the exam in that 12-month window. If the applicant does not pass the exam in that time-frame or number of attempts, they will be required to complete the process again before eligibility is reestablished.

### \*Practical Experience Pathway (PEP) Requirement Modification

Modification Effective March 9th, 2024, adjustments have been made to the Practical Experience Pathway (PEP) in collaboration with Measure Learning. Previously, part of the basic eligibility requirements for the PEP mandated the completion of Anatomy & Physiology I & II, along with a course in General Chemistry. These courses had to be obtained from a regionally accredited college, with a grade of "C" or higher, within the previous seven years. While no longer mandatory, these courses have transitioned from compulsory to highly recommended for applicants. This adjustment aims to better prepare applicants for the National Certification Examination by providing guidance on essential academic coursework.

These changes represent a significant step forward in ensuring accessibility and inclusivity within the certification process for Anesthesia Technicians. The goal is to reduce barriers, streamline education acquisition by focusing on anesthesia-specific topics, and eliminate potential discouragement in applicants who have not pursued academic coursework for an extended period that may require additional prerequisite courses at the institution of choice to enroll in Anatomy & Physiology I & II and General Chemistry.

### Continuing Education Component:

ASATT recognizes that the growth of the profession and its continued standardization requires collaboration with institutions from across the country. Concerning the continuing education component of the Practical Experience Pathway, ASATT encourages all accredited programs to develop and build continuing education curriculums to meet the projected demand for this new pathway. Additionally, we encourage academic institutions interested in developing programs to pursue this process as well, as this will only enhance the development of degree-conferring programs in the future.

**Any academic institution seeking to start a new continuing education component can submit its proposal, curriculum map, objectives, and outcomes to the Continuing Education Committee for review and approval.**

# Practical Experience Pathway (PEP) Checklist

Use this checklist to track your progress toward completing the Practical Experience Pathway (PEP).

## ☐ **STEP 1 – Verify Work Experience**

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Before you get started you must first submit official proof of employment from your HR department(s) to ASATT Headquarters (email [asatt@asatt.org](mailto:asatt@asatt.org)). Your documentation must verify one of the following:

- Minimum of 5 years of experience as an Anesthesia Technician at a Level 1 or Level 2 facility in the United States

–OR–

- Minimum of 7 years of experience at a Tertiary or Outpatient facility

## ☐ **STEP 2 – Await Employment Approval**

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Wait for ASATT to review your employment documentation. You will receive an email once your work experience has been approved and you are eligible to move forward with the PEP application process.

## ☐ **STEP 3 – Complete Continuing Education Requirements**

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Earn a minimum of 40 Continuing Education (CE) credits that meet the requirements outlined in the Practical Experience Pathway Brochure. *The following institutions offer pre-approved CE programs:*

- Oklahoma City Community College
- Quincy College
- MD Anderson
- Kaiser Permanente Anesthesia Practical Pathway

## ☐ **STEP 4 – Obtain Current Certifications**

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Provide current copies of: ACLS and BLS Certifications accreted by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

\* Important: ACLS and BLS are required but do not count toward the required 40 CE credits.

## ☐ **STEP 5 – Submit Your PEP Application to ASATT Headquarters**

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Before submitting, confirm you have included:

- ☐ Approved employment verification from ASATT
- ☐ Documentation for all required CEs
- ☐ Current ACLS certification
- ☐ Current BLS certification
- ☐ Completed Practical Experience Pathway Application
- ☐ \$200 PEP Application Fee

## ☐ **STEP 6 – Apply for the National Certification Exam (NCE)**

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Wait for ASATT approval of your completed PEP application. Once your PEP application has been approved, ASATT will notify you by email and request the following:

- ☐ Completed Initial Exam Application
- ☐ Initial Exam Application Fee:
  - ASATT Members: \$225
  - Non-Members: \$450

\*Become an ASATT Individual Member for \$85 to receive the discounted exam fee.

# Practical Experience Pathway Application

Please Print or Type

First Name

Last Name

Degrees

Institution

Preferred Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

E-Mail

## **Application Requirements (all requirements can be found on page 2)**

### **1. Minimum number of years in the field as an anesthesia technician in the United States**

- ☐ Five (5) years in a Level-1 or Level-2 institution(s)
- ☐ Seven (7) years in a Tertiary center (i.e., same-day surgery center or similar facility).

### **2. Minimum Education and Professional Development Requirements**

- ☐ Completion of Domain 2, Parts a., b. & c. under BASIC REQUIREMENTS section on page 2

### **3. Payment**

#### ***Payment Policy***

*Payment must accompany your registration to be processed. Checks must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank account and made payable to ASATT.*

- ☐ **Make checks payable to ASATT and return with this form to:**  
ASATT 6737 W Washington St, Suite 4270 Milwaukee, WI 53214
- ☐ **Or pay by credit card:** Return this form and an invoice will be sent to the email address you provide. You can then pay online or call the ASATT Office at 414-295-9220 to pay over the phone. Please note: Credit card information sent via email will not be accepted.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* I understand and accept that if electronically submitted, my typewritten name constitutes my signature.*

### APPENDIX A (pg. A)

The following outline details the types of CEs that should be earned during this process. The applicant may choose to earn these CEs individually on their own or through a program offering CEs. Programs that have had their CE curriculum approved by ASATT will offer CEs in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in Appendix A.

#### **Criterion-1: CE parameters**

1. All CEs in this category must be Level-1 evaluated CEs.
2. CEs must be diversified and include key components necessary to satisfy the category.
3. CEs cannot be repeat lectures of the same topic, conference, or educational opportunity.
4. Delineation and Breakdown of CE types for Criterion-1
  - 4.1. Pediatric Anesthesia CEs – minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
    - 4.1.1. One (1) CE must be pediatric airway management
    - 4.1.2. The second CE must be on a topic related to pediatric emergencies, pediatric specific surgeries, or pediatric pathology.
  - 4.2. Trauma Anesthesia CEs – minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
    - 4.2.1. CEs permissible under this category are rapid transfusion, emergency procedures, massive transfusion protocols, etc.
  - 4.3. Cardiac Anesthesia CEs – minimum of Four (4) CEs Required
    - 4.3.1. CE topics that fit within this category are:
      - 4.3.1.1. Transesophageal echocardiogram
        - 4.3.1.1.1. Analysis and interpretation
        - 4.3.1.1.2. Considerations and complications
        - 4.3.1.1.3. Indications and contraindications
      - 4.3.1.2. Lectures on specific cardiovascular surgeries
        - 4.3.1.2.1. CABG
        - 4.3.1.2.2. AVR
        - 4.3.1.2.3. TVAR
        - 4.3.1.2.4. TMAR
        - 4.3.1.2.5. Pericardial windows for cardiac tamponade
      - 4.3.1.3. Cardiovascular pathophysiology/ comorbidities.
      - 4.3.1.4. Principles of autotransfusion and cardiopulmonary bypass
      - 4.3.1.5. Electrocardiography
        - 4.3.1.5.1. Rhythm analysis
        - 4.3.1.5.2. ACLS protocols
        - 4.3.1.5.3. Advanced ECG methodologies
      - 4.3.1.6. Cardiovascular pharmacology.
    - 4.4. Transplant, OB, or Regional Anesthesia – minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
      - 4.4.1. CE topics that fit within this category are:
        - 4.4.1.1. Transplantation and Anesthesia
          - 4.4.1.1.1. Pathology of organ failure
          - 4.4.1.1.2. Surgical considerations for transplant surgeries.
            - 4.4.1.1.2.1. Cardiovascular
            - 4.4.1.1.2.2. Pulmonary
            - 4.4.1.1.2.3. Hepati
            - 4.4.1.1.2.4. Renal
            - 4.4.1.1.2.5. Hand and face (though not recommended as they may not best meet the needs for NCE Preparation)
            - 4.4.1.1.2.6. Transplant related to ophthalmology, cosmetic, tissues, bone marrow, blood stem cells, cord blood, blood and platelet transplantation do not qualify for this category.
        - 4.4.1.2. Obstetrics and Anesthesia
          - 4.4.1.2.1. Surgical implications and consideration for Labor and delivery.
          - 4.4.1.2.2. Obstetrics pathology comorbidities
            - 4.4.1.2.2.1. Placenta previa
            - 4.4.1.2.2.2. Placenta abruptio
            - 4.4.1.2.2.3. Preeclampsia
          - 4.4.1.2.3. Neuraxial anesthesia and obstetrics
          - 4.4.1.2.4. Complications from cesarean section
          - 4.4.1.2.5. General anesthesia and obstetrics

### APPENDIX A *continued (pg. B)*

#### 4.4.1.3. Regional Anesthesia

##### 4.4.1.3.1. Anatomy and Physiology for regional blockade.

###### 4.4.1.3.1.1. Brachial plexus

###### 4.4.1.3.1.2. Lumbar plexus

###### 4.4.1.3.1.3. Sacral plexus

###### 4.4.1.3.1.4. Abdominal nerve structure

###### 4.4.1.3.1.5. Appendage nerve anatomy

##### 4.4.1.3.2. Brachial plexus blockade

###### 4.4.1.3.2.1. Interscalene

###### 4.4.1.3.2.2. Supraclavicular

###### 4.4.1.3.2.3. Infraclavicular

###### 4.4.1.3.2.4. Axillary

##### 4.4.1.3.3. Sacral plexus blockade

###### 4.4.1.3.3.1. Sciatic nerve

###### 4.4.1.3.3.2. Popliteal blockade

###### 4.4.1.3.3.3. Common peroneal

###### 4.4.1.3.3.4. Tibial blockade

##### 4.4.1.3.4. Lumbar plexus blockade

###### 4.4.1.3.4.1. Deep psoas

###### 4.4.1.3.4.2. Femoral

###### 4.4.1.3.4.3. Obturator

###### 4.4.1.3.4.4. Lateral femoral

##### 4.4.1.3.5. Neuraxial Anesthesia

###### 4.4.1.3.5.1. Spinal

###### 4.4.1.3.5.2. Epidural

###### 4.4.1.3.6. LAST Protocol

###### 4.4.1.3.7. Considerations, indications, and complications associated with regional and neuraxial blockade.

###### 4.4.1.3.8. Ultrasounds and their use in regional anesthesia

###### 4.4.1.3.9. Nerve stimulation vs. ultrasound

#### Criterion-2: CE Parameters

1. Professional Aspects; Ethics, Scope of Practice, Regulatory Compliance and Safety.
2. CEs earned in this category can qualify as both Level-1 and Level-2 CEs.
3. CEs earned in this category should revolve around management supply chain management and efficiency.
4. Lecture topics that are recommended in this category are:
  - 4.1. Joint commission and regulatory compliance
  - 4.2. US Pharmacopeia
  - 4.3. FDA, ASA, CGA, U/L, NFPA Standards
  - 4.4. Fires in the operating room
  - 4.5. Hospital gas supply

#### Criterion-3: CE Parameters

1. All CEs in this category must be Level-1 evaluated CEs.
2. CEs must be diversified and include key components necessary to satisfy the category.
3. CEs cannot be repeat lectures of the same topic, conference, or educational opportunity.
4. Delineation and Breakdown of CE types for Criterion-3
  - 4.1. Intra-aortic Balloon Pump – Minimum of One (1) CE Required
    - 4.1.1. Indications, contraindications, and considerations
    - 4.1.2. Operational principles
  - 4.2. Cell Salvage (autotransfusion) – Minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
    - 4.2.1. Indications, contraindications, and considerations
    - 4.2.2. Operational principles
  - 4.3. Pharmacology – Minimum of Four (4) CEs Required
    - 4.3.1. One (1) CE must be on the topic of inhalation agents and vaporizers.
      - 4.3.1.1. Inhalation agents
        - 4.3.1.1.1. Examples:
          - 4.3.1.1.1.1. Sevoflurane
          - 4.3.1.1.1.2. Desflurane

### APPENDIX A *continued (pg. C)*

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- 4.3.1.1.1.3. Isoflurane
- 4.3.1.1.2. Mechanism of action
- 4.3.1.1.3. Indications, contraindications, and considerations.
- 4.3.1.1.4. Vaporizers
  - 4.3.1.1.4.1. Partial pressures and MAC levels
- 4.3.1.1.5. Nitrous Oxide
- 4.3.2. One (1) CE must be on the topic of Neuromuscular blocking agents.
- 4.3.3. Neuromuscular blocking agents
  - 4.3.3.1. Mechanism of action
  - 4.3.3.2. Depolarizing vs. non-depolarizing.
- 4.3.4. Hypnotic Sedatives & Sedatives
  - 4.3.4.1. Examples:
    - 4.3.4.1.1. Propofol
    - 4.3.4.1.2. Etomidate
    - 4.3.4.1.3. Ketamine
    - 4.3.4.1.4. Precedex
  - 4.3.4.2. Mechanism of action
  - 4.3.4.3. Indications, contraindications, and considerations.
  - 4.3.4.4. Mechanism of action
  - 4.3.4.5. Drug types
  - 4.3.4.6. Indications, contraindications, and considerations.
- 4.3.5. Opioids
  - 4.3.5.1. Types (Fentanyl, Remifentanyl, and Sufentanyl)
  - 4.3.5.2. Indications, contraindications, and considerations.
- 4.3.6. Ancillary medications used in the perioperative environment.
- 4.3.7. ACLS algorithm medications.
- 4.4. Anesthesia Gas Machine – Minimum of Four (4) CEs Required
  - 4.4.1. Operational principles
  - 4.4.2. Pressure vs. Volume vs. Flow
  - 4.4.3. Vaporizers
  - 4.4.4. Safety Systems
  - 4.4.5. Carbon dioxide removal
  - 4.4.6. Circle System
  - 4.4.7. Calibration and troubleshooting principles.
- 4.5. Ultrasonography – Minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
  - 4.5.1. One (1) CE of TEE is required for this category
  - 4.5.2. One (1) CE of ultrasound theory and operations is required for this category
- 4.6. Ancillary Instrumentation and advanced Principles – Minimum of Two (2) CEs Required
  - 4.6.1. One (1) lung ventilation (VATs, DLTs, OLV)
  - 4.6.2. Point of care testing (ABG, ACT, TEG)