

While I do intend to continue to offer Oral Board review courses, the very significant changes the ABA has made in increasing the number of dates available for candidates to take the examination will delay deciding upon firm dates for the 2015 Oral Board courses for several weeks; deciding how, when, and where to put our best foot forward in meeting your needs will take some time in planning and preparation. Please continue to check the site for updates, and I appreciate your patience. It would be fun to continue to work with you on this important mission.

If you worked with me for the Written, you are very, very close to having what you need now—command of the content domain of the ABA. So I urge you to continue to work now with Big Red, concentrate upon the listed differences between the books, call any time with questions, and know that I again stand ready to be your best Wingman for the Orals. In this spirit, “Onward to Victory!”

The multiple dates available to take the ABA Oral examination (known formally as the “Applied” ABA part 2 examination) constitute a major change both for those taking the exam and for courses offering to help.

At the course, we offer high quality simulated oral exams, real time feedback of answers (the only course to do so), and we consistently give participants extra exams; we are dedicated to providing the highest quality live, mock Oral Board course possible for the most reasonable price.

I’d like to offer more course dates, but because there are so many exam dates now offered the pool for available people participating in any one exam date is now much smaller—a fraction of what it was. So for us, having 12 courses is simply not sustainable. Therefore, we must decrease the number of courses offered, and centrally locate what is offered.

I’d love to work with everyone with whom I worked on the Written, primarily because if you don’t change horses in the middle of the race you are very close to passing from your work in Big Blue upon the ABA content domain(s) for the Basic and Advanced part 1 Written exams. If you now couple this by simply knowing the changes in Big Red, not at all an onerous task, you will be marvelously well prepared to sit for the Oral examination from a content and verbal organization standpoint.

However, starting over with entirely new scripting and with yet another Wingman makes no sense given both our success and how close you actually are to commanding Big Red. But that’s a decision you must make. . . To leave the best program, a winning formula is not rational—but we are all entitled to our own irrationalities and I certainly am not immune from them myself.

Still, please know, I have the cases, the experience, a winning format, and the support of a high quality faculty. We can put on an outstanding course for you, as we have over 25 years and hundreds of courses involving thousands of fine people. I furthermore have the track record of success with you personally. Together we are winning the battle, and we’re almost home. I can help you win this game, too, if you so decide.

The power point slides which accompany each case while it is being presented, the answers visible to everyone except the person taking an exam on stage, is a game changer because they provide real time feedback as to the both the correctness of answers as well as the best way to verbalize relevant information. They also provide, of course, direct integration with your central source, Big Red, for most of the answers to these old, released Board questions come directly from Big Red. In other words, not only does one get on a real time basis the correct answer to any question being asked and how best to

verbalize it, but also a sense of one’s command of our central source—Big Red. As one participant stated, “Having been to several other courses, this is a transformative change. . . extremely valuable and helpful. . . I get so much out of each case. . . I am never confused by misinformation an examinee might state. . . I can benefit as much by listening and watching and following along as I can by taking an exam. And I don’t have to worry that in listening to someone else struggle that my own game is being degraded. . .”

Some might interpret this as a cosmetic, but less than substantive improvement. I strongly disagree, because sitting in a mock oral course, hour after hour, hearing either poorly constructed answers or answers which are just plain wrong is not only a waste of time, but worse still it degrades the performance of those who are receiving such information. The power points correct this situation by providing correct answers in real time while live mock oral exams progress (blinded to the person taking the exam, but totally clear to everyone else watching and listening).

“Smooth waters don’t make skilled sailors.” At the course we’ll try to challenge you in fun and interesting ways, but we must always stay positive and be realistic and fair. No one is perfect, we just seek to be our best while doing our best, and there is always much for all of us to learn; we’re all just trying to be better anesthesiologists and if we keep this mind we all remain humble and we avoid power trips, mind games, unnecessary fear, and the like. Just do your best, stay focused, stay positive and we’ll win this thing—just as we did before. As your Wingman, I won’t let you down and I won’t let you fail.

A final point related to the administration of the course is crucial, too, and namely the faculty who come with me and complement and assist me are all outstanding anesthesiologists and very experienced, compassionate, and helpful mentors and examiners in their own right who add a great deal to the quality of the course and especially to our mission to administer extra exams to you at no additional cost. Most have been with me and the course for a long time, and I am greatly indebted to them for their personal loyalty to me and great help in changing many lives for the better; passing Oral Boards is a huge deal, and my faculty is acutely aware of how best to develop and foster your best performance.

In grouping the many ABA exam dates into three segments, the following scheduled is submitted for your consideration.

ABA Exam Date	Proposed Meeting Date
February 23-26	San Diego January 23-25
March 9-12, March 30-April 2, April 20-23, May 4-7	Dallas February 27-March1
May 18-21, June 8-11	Dallas May 8-10
October 5-8, October 12-15	Dallas September 11-13

Finally, note that course sizes must be at least 10 participants five weeks before any scheduled course in order to commit to hotel sleeping and meeting space, invite faculty, and properly plan for and host a strong course.

In the event a course is not sustainable, a full refund will be provided. So if you are interested, please sign up as early as possible to push the course along and reserve a spot. In this way, I am virtually certain I can meet and exceed expectations—always an important goal.

I hope you consider coming to experience some outstanding cases, get valuable and extra practice, and enable me to act as your Wingman once again on this potentially challenging mission. I'd be honored, and I have great confidence in you, in the fitness of the program, and in your ultimate success. In that spirit, "Onward to Victory!"