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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
ANESTHESIA TECHNOLOGISTS  
AND TECHNICIANS

# Practical Experience Pathway Brochure

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online!

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).

American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians  
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# Practical Experience Pathway

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Practical Experience Pathway 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

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

Once the review committee approves an applicant for eligibility the applicant has 12-months from the notice of exam eligibility to pass the exam. The applicant is allowed 3

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 CEUs, 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

- Five (5) years in a Level-1 or Level-2 institution(s) OR Seven (7) years in a Tertiary 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 documents from each employer will need to be submitted for review.

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

- Completion of continuing education credits/coursework. A minimum of 40 CEUs are required following the domains laid out in Appendix A (pages 4-6).
  - CEUs will be reviewed for applicability and compliance with ASATT's published standards.
  - CEUs must be earned on topics outlined in the three criteria from Appendix A (pages 4-6).
- Valid ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) credential obtained through 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 CEU 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 application with the corresponding fee (\$200) for document review. 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

Effective March 9th, 2024, adjustments have been made to the Practical Experience Pathway (PEP) in collaboration with Meazure 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 Application

***Make it easier! Apply online at [www.asatt.org](http://www.asatt.org)***

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**

- 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.*

- Completed Application with fee payment enclosed
- Check (*payable to ASATT*)
- VISA    American Express    MasterCard    Discover

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### **Send Payment to:**

ASATT • 6737 West Washington Street, Suite 4210 • Milwaukee, WI 53214

**-OR- register online at [www.asatt.org](http://www.asatt.org)**

### APPENDIX A (pg. A)

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

#### **Criterion-1: CEU parameters**

1. All CEUs in this category must be Level-1 evaluated CEUs.
2. CEUs must be diversified and include key components necessary to satisfy the category.
3. CEUs cannot be repeat lectures of the same topic, conference, or educational opportunity.
4. Delineation and Breakdown of CEU types for Criterion-1
  - 4.1. Pediatric Anesthesia CEUs – minimum of Two (2) CEUs Required
    - 4.1.1. One (1) CEU must be pediatric airway management
    - 4.1.2. The second CEU must be on a topic related to pediatric emergencies, pediatric specific surgeries, or pediatric pathology.
    - 4.1.3. The CEU cannot be a repeat lecture from a previous conference or educational opportunity.
  - 4.2. Trauma Anesthesia CEUs – minimum of Two (2) CEUs Required
    - 4.2.1. CEUs are permissible under this category are rapid transfusion, emergency procedures, massive transfusion protocols, etc.
    - 4.2.2. CEUs cannot be a repeat lecture from a previous conference or educational opportunity.
  - 4.3. Cardiac Anesthesia CEUs – minimum of Four (4) CEUs Required
    - 4.3.1. CEU topics that fit within the 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.
    - 4.3.2. CEUs cannot be repeat lectures of the same topic, conference, or educational opportunity.
  - 4.4. Transplant, OB, or Regional Anesthesia – minimum of Two (2) CEUs Required
    - 4.4.1. CEU 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. Hepatic
          - 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.

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

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#### 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

#### 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: CEU Parameters**

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1. Professional Aspects; Ethics, Scope of Practice, Regulatory Compliance and Safety.
2. CEUs earned in this category can qualify as both Level-1 and Level-2 CEUs.
3. CEUs 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: CEU Parameters**

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1. All CEUs in this category must be Level-1 evaluated CEUs.
2. CEUs must be diversified and include key components necessary to satisfy the category.
3. CEUs cannot be repeat lectures of the same topic, conference, or educational opportunity.
4. **Delineation and Breakdown of CEU types for Criterion-3**
  - 4.1. Intra-aortic Balloon Pump – Minimum of One (1) CEU Required
    - 4.1.1. Indications, contraindications, and considerations
    - 4.1.2. Operational principles
  - 4.2. Cell Salvage (autotransfusion) – Minimum of Two (2) CEUs Required

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

- 4.2.1. Indications, contraindications, and considerations
- 4.2.2. Operational principles
- 4.3. Pharmacology – Minimum of Four (4) CEUs Required
  - 4.3.1. One (1) CEU 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
        - 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) CEU 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) CEUs 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) CEUs Required
  - 4.5.1. One (1) CEU of TEE is required for this category
  - 4.5.2. One (1) CEU of ultrasound theory and operations is required for this category
- 4.6. Ancillary Instrumentation and advanced Principles – Minimum of Two (2) CEUs Required
  - 4.6.1. One (1) lung ventilation (VATs, DLTs, OLV)
  - 4.6.2. Point of care testing (ABG, ACT, TEG)