



General Surgery

# Curriculum Outline

2023 - 2024



# Introduction

The SCORE General Surgery Curriculum Outline covers a list of topics in a five-year general surgery residency program.

Topics are listed for all six competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME): patient care; medical knowledge; professionalism; interpersonal and communication skills; practice-based learning and improvement; and systems-based practice. Patient care topics cover organ system-based categories, with each category separated into Diseases/Conditions and Operations/Procedures. Topics within these two areas are designated as core or advanced.

 **CORE** modules are diseases and procedures encountered in general surgery for which a graduate of training will possess significant knowledge and be able to provide comprehensive care, including procedural competency.

 **ADVANCED** modules are diseases and procedures that are not consistently part of general surgery practice for which a graduate of training should have sufficient knowledge to make a diagnosis and provide initial management. In some instances, graduates will have sufficient knowledge and experience to provide comprehensive care.

This outline is annually updated and reflects feedback from SCORE member organizations and specialty surgical societies. As the curriculum has evolved, many topics have been consolidated to describe required knowledge more accurately.

The Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE<sup>®</sup>) is a nonprofit organization formed in 2004 by the principal organizations involved in American surgical education. SCORE's mission is to improve the education of trainees in general surgery and related specialties through the development and maintenance of a national curriculum. The SCORE Portal was created to provide high-quality educational content, in support of the SCORE Curriculum Outline, to trainees and their programs.

The SCORE Portal<sup>®</sup> provides residents and training programs with high-quality educational materials and a structured program for self-learning. SCORE focuses on all areas of general surgery and related specialties as well as fellowship-level content.

# Patient Care

## General Abdomen

### Diseases/Conditions



Abdominal Pain  
Rectus Sheath Hematoma



Desmoids and Fibromatoses  
Peritoneal Neoplasms

### Operations/Procedures



Abdominal Exploration  
Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter Insertion

## Hernia

### Diseases/Conditions



Inguinal and Femoral Hernias  
Miscellaneous Hernias  
Umbilical and Epigastric Hernias  
Ventral Hernia

### Operations/Procedures



Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair  
Inguinal and Femoral Hernia Repair  
Miscellaneous Hernia Repair  
Ventral Hernia Repair

# Biliary

## Diseases/Conditions



Benign Biliary Obstruction  
Choledochal Cyst  
Functional Biliary Disorders  
Iatrogenic Bile Duct Injury  
Primary Biliary Neoplasms  
Symptomatic Gallstones and Cholecystitis



Gallbladder Neoplasms  
Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis

## Operations/Procedures



Cholecystectomy and Cholangiography  
Cholecystostomy  
Common Bile Duct Exploration and Choledochoscopy



Choledochoenteric Anastomosis  
Extended Cholecystectomy for Gallbladder Cancer  
Iatrogenic Bile Duct Injury Repair  
Procedures for Bile Duct Cancer  
Procedures for Bile Duct Neoplasm  
Ultrasound of the Biliary Tree

## Liver

### Diseases/Conditions



- Cirrhosis and Portal Hypertension
- Hepatic Abscess
- Metastatic Hepatic Neoplasms
- Primary Hepatic Neoplasms

### Operations/Procedures



- Hepatic Abscess Drainage
- Liver Biopsy



- Hepatic Resection
- Intraoperative Hepatic Ultrasound

## Pancreas

### Diseases/Conditions



- Acute Pancreatitis
- Endocrine Pancreatic Neoplasms
- Exocrine Pancreatic Neoplasms



- Chronic Pancreatitis
- Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms
- Pancreas Divisum

### Operations/Procedures



- Distal Pancreatectomy



- Ampullary Tumors
- Intraoperative Pancreatic Ultrasound
- Pancreaticoduodenectomy
- Total Pancreatectomy

## Spleen

### Diseases/Conditions



Hematologic Diseases of the Spleen  
Splenic Abscess, Cysts, and Neoplasms

### Operations/Procedures



Splenectomy

## Esophagus

### Diseases/Conditions



Esophageal Motility Disorders  
Esophageal Neoplasms  
Gastroesophageal Reflux and Barrett Esophagus  
Hiatal Hernias



Esophageal Caustic Ingestion and Foreign Bodies

### Operations/Procedures



Antireflux Procedures



Cricopharyngeal Myotomy and Resection of Zenker Diverticulum  
Esophagectomy  
Heller Esophagomyotomy  
Paraesophageal Hernia Repair

## Stomach

### Diseases/Conditions



- Functional Gastric Disorders
- Gastric Adenocarcinoma
- Gastric Foreign Bodies
- GISTs and Miscellaneous Digestive Neoplasms
- Morbid Obesity
- Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Stress Gastritis
- Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding

### Operations/Procedures



- Access Procedures for Nutritional Support
- Gastrectomy
- Gastroduodenal Perforation Repair
- Vagotomy and Drainage



- Procedures for Morbid Obesity
- Revisational Procedures after Gastrectomy

## Small Intestine

### Diseases/Conditions



- Acute Mesenteric Ischemia
- Enterocutaneous Fistula
- Meckel Diverticulum
- Paralytic Ileus
- Radiation Enteritis
- Small Intestinal Neoplasms
- Small Intestinal Obstruction



- Enteric Infections and Blind Loop Syndrome
- Short Bowel Syndrome

## Operations/Procedures



Adhesiolysis  
Ileostomy and Ileostomy Closure  
Procedures for Crohn Disease  
Small Intestinal Resection

## Large Intestine

### Diseases/Conditions



Appendicitis  
*C. difficile* Colitis  
Colon Cancer  
Colonic Polyps  
Colonic Volvulus and Obstruction  
Diverticulitis  
Ischemic Colitis  
Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding



Colonic Polyposis Syndromes  
Functional Intestinal Disorders

### Operations/Procedures



Appendectomy  
Colostomy and Colostomy Closure  
Partial Colectomy  
Procedures for Ulcerative Colitis  
Total and Subtotal Colectomy

## Anorectal

### Diseases/Conditions



- Anal Cancer
- Anal Dysplasia and STDs
- Anal Fissure
- Anorectal Abscess and Fistulae
- Hemorrhoids
- Rectal Cancer



- Fecal Incontinence
- Rectal Prolapse

### Operations/Procedures



- Anal Sphincterotomy
- Anorectal Abscess Drainage
- Anorectal Fistula Repair
- Perianal Condylomas Excision
- Procedures for Hemorrhoids



- Anal Cancer Excision
- Abdominoperineal Resection and Pelvic Exenteration
- Rectal Prolapse Repair
- Transanal Resection

## Endoscopy

### Operations/Procedures



- Bronchoscopy and Bronchoalveolar Lavage
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
- Lower GI Endoscopy

# Breast

## Diseases/Conditions

- Atypical Hyperplasia, Flat Epithelial Atypia, and Lobular Carcinoma in Situ of the Breast
- Benign Inflammatory Disease of the Breast
- Breast Disease During Pregnancy and Lactation
- Breast Invasive Carcinoma
- Ductal Carcinoma in Situ
- Fat Necrosis, Fibrocystic Changes, and Radial Scar of the Breast
- Fibroadenoma and Phyllodes Tumors of the Breast
- Heredity Breast Cancer
- Inflammatory Breast Cancer
- Initial Management of a Breast Mass
- Male Gynecomastia and Breast Cancer
- Management of the Axilla in Breast Cancer
- Nipple Discharge and Intraductal Papilloma
- Paget Disease of the Nipple
- Postmastectomy Reconstruction Options
- Radiographic Abnormalities of the Breast

## Operations/Procedures

- Axillary Procedures in Breast Cancer
- Breast Duct Excision
- Excisional Breast Biopsy and Partial Mastectomy
- Percutaneous Breast Biopsy and Cyst Aspiration
- Simple, Modified Radical, and Radical Mastectomy

# Endocrine

## Diseases/Conditions

Hypercortisolism and Cushing Syndrome/Disease

Hyperparathyroidism

Hyperthyroidism

Incidental Adrenal Mass



Initial Workup of a Thyroid Nodule

Pheochromocytoma

Postoperative Hypothyroidism

Primary Hyperaldosteronism

Thyroid Cancer

Thyroiditis



Adrenal Cancer

Multiple Endocrine Neoplasias

Parathyroid Cancer

## Operations/Procedures



Parathyroidectomy

Thyroidectomy



Adrenalectomy

Thyroid Ultrasound

# Skin and Soft Tissue

## Diseases/Conditions

Hidradenitis Suppurativa  
Melanoma and Nevi  
Nonmelanoma Skin Cancers  
 Paronychia and Felon  
Pilonidal Disease  
Pressure Ulcer  
Sarcoma  
Soft Tissue Infections  
Soft Tissue Masses Evaluation

 ADVANCED Lymphedema and Lymphangitis

## Operations/Procedures

Melanoma Excision  
Procedures for Pilonidal Disease  
 Procedures for Soft Tissue Infections  
Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Melanoma  
Surgical Management of Skin/Soft Tissue Lesion

 ADVANCED Ilioinguinal-Femoral Lymphadenectomy  
Sarcoma Resection

# Surgical Critical Care

## Diseases/Conditions

- Abdominal Compartment Syndrome
- Anaphylaxis
- Brain Death
- Cardiac Arrest
- Cardiac Failure and Cardiogenic Shock
- Common Cardiac Arrhythmias
- Derangements of Electrolytes and Acid-Base Balance
- O CORE** Endocrine Dysfunction
- Hepatic Failure and Hepatorenal Syndrome
- Hypovolemic Shock
- Neurogenic Shock
- Neurologic Dysfunction
- Pain, Agitation, and Delirium
- Renal Failure
- Respiratory Failure: ARDS, Pulmonary Embolism, and Pneumonia
- Sepsis and Septic Shock



Organ Donors and Selection Criteria

## Operations/Procedures



- Airway Access: Intubation and Surgical Airways
- Ultrasound for Intravascular Access
- Vascular Access



Cardiac Pacing

# Trauma

## Diseases/Conditions

- Burns
  - Cardiac Injury
  - Chest Wall, Pleural, and Diaphragm Injuries
  - Colon and Rectal Injury
  - Duodenal and Pancreatic Injury
  - Esophageal Perforation and Injury
  - Frostbite and Hypothermia
  - Gastric and Small Intestinal Injury
  - Geriatric Trauma
  - Hepatic Injury
  - Inhalation Injury
  - Initial Assessment and Management of Trauma
  - Initial Assessment and Management of Neck Trauma
  - Lower Urinary Tract Injuries
  - Pediatric Trauma
  - Pelvic Fractures and Retroperitoneal Hematoma
  - Smoke Inhalation Injury and Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
  - Splenic Injury
  - Tracheobronchial and Lung Injury
  - Trauma in Pregnancy
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Upper Aerodigestive Tract Injury
  - Upper Urinary Tract Injuries
  - Vascular Abdominal Injury
  - Vascular Extremity Injury
  - Vascular Neck Injury
  - Vascular Thoracic Injury
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- Bite and Envenomation Injuries
  - Brachial Plexus Injury
  - Extremity Injuries
  - Spinal Cord Injury



## Operations/Procedures

- Abdominal Exploration for Trauma
- Escharotomy
- Fasciotomy
- Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST)
- Gastrointestinal Tract Injury Repair
- O CORE** Hepatic Injury Packing, Repair, and Resection
- Neck Injuries Management
- Splenectomy and Splenorrhaphy
- Procedures for Urinary Tract Injuries
- Procedures for Vascular Injuries
- Wounds Management

- Cardiac Injury Repair
- Hand Tendon Repairs
- O ADVANCED** Procedures for Esophageal Injury
- Procedures for Thermal Injuries
- Skin Grafting for Thermal Injuries

## Arterial Disease

### Diseases/Conditions

- Acute Thrombosis and Ischemia
- Carotid Artery Disease
- O CORE** Compartment Syndromes
- Diabetic Foot Infections
- Peripheral Arterial Emboli
- Peripheral Vascular Occlusive Disease

- Acute Aortic Dissection
- Aortic Aneurysms
- Arterial Peripheral Aneurysms
- O ADVANCED** Arterial Visceral Aneurysms
- Nonatherosclerotic Occlusive Diseases
- Renal Artery Disease
- Thoracic Outlet Syndrome
- Vascular Graft Infections

## Operations/Procedures



Arterial Embolectomy and Thrombectomy  
Lower Extremity Amputations



Abdominal and Aortoiliac Aneurysm Repair  
Aortoiliac Reconstruction for Occlusive Disease  
Endovascular Intervention Principles  
Extra-anatomic Bypass  
Graft-enteric Fistula Management  
Lower Extremity Bypass  
Peripheral Aneurysms Repair  
Procedures for Carotid Artery Stenosis  
Procedures for Mesenteric Occlusive Disease  
Superior Mesenteric Artery (SMA) Embolectomy and Thrombectomy  
Ultrasound in the Diagnosis and Management of Vascular Diseases

## Vascular Venous

### Diseases/Conditions



Evaluation of a Swollen Leg  
Thrombophlebitis  
Varicose Veins  
Venous Stasis and Chronic Venous Insufficiency  
Venous Thromboembolism

### Operations/Procedures



Vena Cava Filter Insertion  
Venous Insufficiency and Related Procedures

## Vascular Access

### Diseases/Conditions



Vascular Access for Dialysis

## Operations/Procedures



Vascular Exposure Principles  
Venous Access Devices Insertion



Arteriovenous Graft and Fistula

## Transplantation

### Diseases/Conditions



Organ Preservation

### Operations/Procedures



Donor Hepatectomy  
Donor Nephrectomy  
En Bloc Abdominal Organ Retrieval  
Liver Transplantation  
Pancreas Transplantation  
Renal Transplantation

## Thoracic Surgery

### Diseases/Conditions



Chylothorax  
Pleural Effusion and Empyema  
Pneumothorax and Pleurodesis



Malignant Lung Tumors  
Mediastinal Tumors and Cysts  
Mediastinitis  
Superior Vena Cava Syndrome

## Operations/Procedures



Thoracotomy and Thoracoscopy  
Tube Thoracostomy and Thoracentesis



Pulmonary Resections

## Pediatric Surgery

### Diseases/Conditions



Abdominal Mass  
Acute Abdominal Pain  
Appendicitis  
Hypertrophic Pyloric Stenosis  
Inguinal Hernia  
Intussusception  
Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding  
Malrotation  
Meckel Diverticulum  
Umbilical Hernia



Aerodigestive Tract Foreign Bodies  
Anorectal Malformations  
Biliary Atresia  
Choledochal Cysts  
Congenital Aganglionosis (Hirschsprung Disease)  
Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia  
Cryptorchidism  
Esophageal Atresia and Tracheoesophageal Fistula  
Gastroschisis and Omphalocele  
Necrotizing Enterocolitis  
Neonatal Small Bowel Obstruction

## Operations/Procedures

 CORE

- Inguinal Hernia Repair
- Intussusception Operation
- Malrotation Operation
- Meckel Diverticulum Excision
- Pyloromyotomy
- Umbilical Hernia Repair

 ADVANCED

- Anorectal Malformations Operation
- Branchial Cleft Anomaly Excision
- Chest Wall Deformity Repair
- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair
- Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair
- Esophageal Atresia and Tracheoesophageal Fistula Repair
- Hirschsprung Disease Operation
- Intestinal Atresia and Stenosis Repair
- Meconium Ileus Operation
- Necrotizing Enterocolitis Operation
- Orchiopexy
- Thyroglossal Duct Cyst Excision

## Plastic Surgery

### Operations/Procedures

 CORE

- Complex Wound Closure
- Skin Grafting

## Genitourinary

### Diseases/Conditions

 CORE

- Acute Urinary Retention
- Hydrocele
- Scrotal Pain and Masses

 ADVANCED

- Genitourinary Neoplasms

## Operations/Procedures



Cystostomy



Nephrectomy

## Obstetrics and Gynecology

### Diseases/Conditions



Ectopic Pregnancy  
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease



Gynecologic Neoplasms

### Operations/Procedures



Surgical Considerations of the Pregnant Patient



Cesarean Section  
Hysterectomy and Salpingo-oophorectomy

## Head and Neck

### Diseases/Conditions



Neck Mass Evaluation  
Upper Airway Obstruction



Oral Cavity/Pharynx, Laryngeal, and Salivary Gland Cancer

### Operations/Procedures



Lymph Node Biopsy



Modified Neck Dissection  
Parotidectomy

# Medical Knowledge

## Anesthesia

Acute Pain Management  
Agents and Techniques for Conscious Sedation  
Agents and Techniques for General Anesthesia  
Agents and Techniques for Regional and Local Anesthesia  
Best Practices in Prescribing Opioids  
Choice of Anesthesia  
Chronic Pain Management  
Digital and Peripheral Nerve Blocks  
Intraoperative Monitoring and Common Intraoperative Problems

## Biostatistics and Evaluation of Evidence

Bias in Research Design and Studies  
Study Design  
Tests of Significance and Measures of Long-term Survival

## Fluids, Electrolytes, and Acid-Base Balance

Hypocalcemia and Hypercalcemia  
Hypokalemia and Hyperkalemia  
Hyponatremia and Hypernatremia  
Magnesium and Phosphorus Disorders

## Geriatric Surgery and End-of-Life Care

Advance Directives, DNR Orders, and Power of Attorney  
Frailty  
Goal Setting with Elderly Patients and Families  
Palliative and Hospice Care  
Perioperative Management of Geriatric Patients

## Immunology

Components of the Immune System  
Immune Response to Injury and Infection  
Surgery and Surgical Conditions in Immunocompromised Hosts  
Transplant Immunology

## Infection and Antimicrobial Therapy

Antimicrobial Agents in Surgical Infections  
Antimicrobial Stewardship  
Diagnostic Approach to Infection  
Hospital-Acquired Infections  
Intra-abdominal Infections  
Opportunistic Infections  
Preoperative Assessment and Management of Coexisting Infection  
Prevention and Treatment of Surgical Site Infection

## Minimally Invasive Surgery – Principles

Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Principles  
Robotic Surgery Principles  
Safe Use of Surgical Energy

## Nutrition and Metabolism

Nutritional Assessment  
Nutritional Requirements  
Nutritional Support

## Oncology and Tumor Biology

Adjunctive Therapy for Cancer  
Tumor Immunology

## Preoperative Evaluation and Perioperative Care

Common Postoperative Problems  
Evaluation of Surgical Risk  
Management of Perioperative Risk  
Mechanical Ventilation  
Postoperative Pain Management  
Prophylaxis of Venous Thromboembolism

## Transfusion and Disorders of Coagulation

Evaluation of Ongoing Bleeding and Laboratory Assessment of Coagulation  
Inherited and Acquired Disorders of Coagulation  
Normal Mechanisms of Hemostasis and Coagulation  
Transfusion Indications, Risks, Type and Crossmatch, and Component Therapy

## Wound Healing

Wound Closure and Postoperative Care  
Wound Healing

## Professionalism

### Ethical Issues in Clinical Surgery

Advance Directives  
Approaching Ethical Issues in Surgery  
Decision-Making Capacity  
Do Not Resuscitate  
Ethics in Global Surgery and Volunteerism  
Futility  
Informed Consent  
Medical Decisions for Pediatric Patients  
Substituted Judgment: The Role and Care of Surrogates  
Withdrawing and Withholding Life-Sustaining Treatments

## Diversity and Inclusion

Allyship and Bystander Intervention  
Diversity in the US Surgical Workforce  
Principles of Disparities in Surgical Care  
Surgical Care of LGBTQIA+ Patients

## Managing a Career in Surgery

Surgical Ergonomics

# Interpersonal and Communication Skills

## Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS)

Cognitive Skills (Situation Awareness and Decision Making)  
Social Skills (Communication, Teamwork and Leadership)  
The Provider Awareness and Cultural Dexterity Toolkit for Surgeons (PACTS)

## Surgical Professionalism and Interpersonal Communication Education (SPICE)

Advanced Communication Skills and the Challenges of Informed Consent  
Communicating Medical Errors  
Working Through Language Barriers and Differing Customs  
Delivering Grim Prognoses and Other Bad News  
Giving and Getting Feedback  
Career Management (Making Important Professional and Personal Decisions)  
Safe Handoff of Patient Care Duties  
Signs of Stress, Depression, and Suicide in Surgical Practice  
Working with Professionals (Team Communication and Respect)

# Systems-based Practice

## Systems-based Practice

Advocating for Quality Patient Care

Coordinating Patient Care

Cost Awareness and Risk-Benefit Analysis

Identifying Systems Errors – Root Cause Analysis

Working Effectively in Various Healthcare Delivery Settings and Systems

Working in Interprofessional Teams

# Practice-based Learning and Improvement

## Quality Improvement

Inspiring a Healthy Culture for Patient Care

Local Engagement in Quality Improvement

Problem-Based Quality Improvement

Understanding the Data and Methods to Evaluate Performance