The annual in-service examination (ISE) is constructed by the ABU/AUA Examination Committee and comprises questions to identify areas of content to test each urology resident’s knowledge on a national level. This helps to identify strengths and weaknesses of our training program and plays an important role in determining a resident’s educational progress.

The exam is typically held on the 3rd Saturday in November. In the past, we have used two proctors that consist of a full time faculty, part time faculty or volunteer faculty. Beginning in 2013, the ISE will be taken as an electronic examination. All residents will be assigned a computer station for the exam. We will no longer use proctors and the Program Director and Residency Coordinator will be monitoring the examination. This will be done at the UT Kaplan Testing Center in the 920 Madison building.

The areas of knowledge tested include Calculus Disease, Congenital Anomalies, Embryology, Anatomy, Core Competencies, Geriatric, Radiation Safety and Ultrasound, Fluid and Electrolyte, Transplant, Hypertension, Vascular Disease, Nephrology, Infection and Inflammatory Disease, Neoplasm, Neurogenic Bladder, Voiding Dysfunction, Incontinence, Obstructive Uropathy, Laparoscopy, Robotic Surgery, Physiology, Immunology and Adrenal, Sexual Dysfunction, Endocrinopathy, Fertility, Trauma, Fistulae and Urinary Diversion as well as Pathology. The tools used to help residents study for this exam include weekly and monthly conferences; an AUA Self-Assessment Study Program and AUA Update Series which we purchase for their use.

Once the exam results are available, they are reviewed by the Program Director and shared with the faculty during their monthly meeting. The results are then shared with each resident and also discussed with them during their evaluation process. As an incentive, any resident who scores lower than the 50th percentile will not be given a 3rd week of vacation.