

AIMVTiny Talks fundamental and advanced skills transcript

14:30:33 Hello, welcome. It's Liz and Kate here with another AIMVTiny Talk. This one is going to focus on the advanced skills that are part of part two of your application. So you remember you submitted your universal advanced skills in part one and you had to have an attestant who signed off on mastery of those skills.

14:30:59 And the same thing is true for the two skills lists that are required as part of part two.

14:31:06 So we have fundamental advanced skills and essential advanced skills. So let's start with the fundamental advanced skills.

14:31:25 Okay. So you can see here it's highlighted again. This is back to the application instructions. We're going to go down to the advanced skills section of the instructions where we highlight again how AIMDT defines mastery. This is for you and for your attestants

14:31:46 To really understand what's expected as part of mastery. I heard another really good definition of mastery, actually, that you are the person who's able to teach this skill to other people.

14:31:59 And I think that really encapsulates what mastery is all about. If you are at the point where you can teach the skill to others, explain all the potential issues or troubleshooting or problems that might arise while you're performing the skill, then you have truly mastered that skill.

14:32:19 Mm-hmm. Yeah.

14:32:19 You think, yeah, I think that's a good one. These aren't a checklist. These aren't things you do once during your application year. These are things you have done over and over and over again during the course of your career.

14:32:31 These skills, you might use a skill that you haven't actually mastered. You might have the opportunity to perform or assist with that skill during your application year.

14:32:41 You can still cite that on your case census. And when we get to the census, we'll talk about what that looks like and how you do that.

14:32:49 You don't have to limit yourself to only your mastered skills when you get to that point.

14:32:54 But you will need to cite at least 50% of your mastered skills.

14:32:59 In your census. That's just a little teaser for when we get to the census talk.

14:33:05 So you have the mastery. We rely on your integrity, the integrity of your attestants.

14:33:11 To sign off on that mastery and tell us that you truly have become a master of that skill.

14:33:18 We do require a minimum of 75% of both the fundamental and essential skills be mastered in order to complete that application. And when we have a skill that has a lot of different skills within it, like echocardiography like neuroanatomic localization when there are lots of different

14:33:40 Component skills. At least 75% of those constituent skills have to be mastered in order to consider the entire skill mastered.

14:33:50 This is really an area where we rely on your integrity do that self-assessment and be honest with yourself when you're asking folks to sign off on mastery.

14:34:03 It has to be someone, if you work more than 75% of the time in your specialty, any DVM, Diplomate, or a VTS member of these academies listed here can sign off on your advanced skills. If you work 55 to 74% of your time in your specialty. So less than 75% of the time.

14:34:25 Then you need a Diplomate or VTS specifically in your specialty to sign off on mastery.

14:34:32 We reference the case census here because of the cross-referencing and we'll talk more about that when we talk about the census.

14:34:41 Fundamental advanced skills. So a minimum of 75% of the fundamental advanced skills have to be mastered. We have reference lists of those on our website. So when you go to the 2025 application information page on the website.

14:34:55 You can scroll down and see the list of those fundamental advanced skills here.

14:35:01 And we can click on that and show you what that looks like. This is just for you to print out and keep on your clipboard. Does anyone use clipboards anymore in practice? Give it to your VTS or Diplomate or the doctor that you're working with so they know the skills that you're working on and that you're looking to have some attesting to your mastery of.

14:35:25 So this is the fundamental skills list and you can see the link to the submission form is here. And I have it pulled up here.

14:35:33 This one. So you're required to fill in your information I'm going to uh do this one just for a little practice so you guys can see what it looks like. Small animal IM is already filled in.

14:35:50 And then it has instructions for your attestants. We're going to Do I have to fill one? I have to fill at least one in. So I'm going to make Kate one of my attestants She's a VTS cardiology. I'm just going to put in

14:36:10 And... this is not Kate's email, by the way, but there you go. And then Kate's going to sign.

14:36:20 She's going to fill in the date that she signed and we'll just call it today. Okay.

14:36:25 So then you see the list of all of the skills and this matches the list that it's the same list as the reference list that's on the webpage. It's in the same order.

14:36:37 So here, if you have mastered setting up for and assisting with arthrocentesis, so notice this doesn't say performing arthrocentesis, it's setting up with and assisting with.

14:36:49 And if you have demonstrated mastery of that, your attestant can click yes.

14:36:55 They will pick their name or their number as a test at number one, and then they'll sign.

14:37:01 Please make sure or do your best to make sure that your attendance exemplar signature that was on the previous page so this is their exemplar, make sure as much as you can, as much as it's within your control, that that matches the signature on the mastery form.

14:37:21 This is something that we ask our reviewers to check to make sure that those signatures match up. So please ask your attestants to be careful when they're signing.

14:37:35 So we have several different skills available. If you've mastered it, you'll click yes and then you'll be required to sign and you see that doesn't match. That would be we would be like, well, we don't know about that. So you can see we have all of these skills here.

14:37:51 At the end, it will tell you how many skills you have mastered and how many skills have been signed off.

14:37:58 And it will tell you when you have met the master, the minimum number so that you can submit.

14:38:04 This is not for your attestants to submit. You have to get this form back from your attestant.

14:38:13 And you need to fill in that you're ready to submit it. You need to verify that it's fine. You need to sign and you need to fill in your application number in order to submit this form. So your attestants are not going to They're not going to submit it. They're just going to save it. So what does it look like when they hit save or when you hit save?

14:38:35 I think this is the easiest way to get this to your attestants is to enter your information press save and you get a link that you will be automatically sent to you and you can make a copy of this

14:38:51 Just by right clicking on it and saying copy. And then you can send that link to your attestant for them to continue filling out the form and filling out your mastery.

14:39:03 You are allowed up to four attestants, but there is no reason to have more than one attestant unless you have worked in multiple places, for example, and the person you're currently working with doesn't have knowledge of your mastery of some of the skills that maybe you did at a different point in your career.

14:39:23 Anything else on the fundamentals, Kate, before we move to the essentials?

14:39:38 Excellent.

14:39:28 No, I think just tagging on to that As far as reviewing, it doesn't make you look any better or worse to have one versus four people. So don't ask four people just because you think it looks better having four people sign off for you. That doesn't play a role in grading or anything, just the fact that it's signed off

14:39:49 And submit it is what matters.

14:39:51 Excellent point. Yes, thank you. So let's move on to the essential skills, which are really the big bulk of your advanced skills for part two. Again, just with the fundamentals, same Yeah, the fundamental and essential skills have the same amount that we require for a minimum of the skills to be mastered in that 75%.

14:40:15 The same reference lists are found on our website and you can click this and it'll take you straight to as it did for the fundamental skills.

14:40:26 Whether or not you have mastered the essential skill. Everything that is required of the skill needs to be submitted. What does that mean so When we go to our website.

14:40:41 And we scroll down to the essential skills and I'm just going to use the small animal list for myself because I'm a small animal specialist. So you can see here that we have the 12 essential skills listed here for

14:40:57 applicants in small animal internal medicine. And each of these is linked to a document that goes over what you need to submit for that skill.

14:41:10 And you can click on that and it takes you straight to the submission requirements.

14:41:15 These are also linked in the instructions. So we have a couple of places where you can find it. So you can see here for advanced IV access, you will need to demonstrate advanced

knowledge of the prep, the equipment, the materials needed, indications, contraindications, nursing care, use of maintenance of these care

14:41:34 Of these catheters and we list the three catheters that we expect you to submit information on.

14:41:41 For each of these catheters, we need you to list a minimum number of indications. We need a list of the equipment that you need to place these catheters, a step-by-step detailed explanation of the placement procedure, the potential complications, and different specialties will have different numbers of minimums and maximums in each of these categories.

14:42:05 Which is why it's really important that you read these instructions.

14:42:09 Over and over and over again and that you're following them to the letter.

14:42:14 Then we want you to provide a detailed step-by-step explanation of how to obtain the blood sample from each of those catheters.

14:42:22 Okay, so what does that submission form look like? Oh, the beginning looks exactly like the other form, right? So you fill in your information.

14:42:32 You're going to uh it'll have your specialty automatically populated there. If you're on the wrong form, you'll know it right away because it'll have the specialty populated. So if you have to pull this poll down, you're in the wrong form.

14:42:49 But you'll also notice that as soon as you get to the next page after your attestants.

14:42:55 I'm going to have Kate attest for me. She's so invested in my success as a VTS and it's so nice to have.

14:43:06 So much. I only signed off two skills last time.

14:43:09 I know it's okay because it's not due yet. So it's fine. So she's skimmed.

14:43:16 Have her exemplar here As we said, you can add another attestant just by clicking this button and it will show you the for you to provide the same information for a second attestant if needed.

14:43:30 So we're going to go over here and we can see, so let's just scroll down to the advanced intravascular access since that's a skill we were looking at before.

14:43:41 We explain here what mastery means. So it means that the applicant has mastered placement, use, and maintenance of these catheter types. Seldinger or central catheter, a sampling catheter, arterial catheter.

14:43:55 If you, since we require 75% of the constituent skills to qualify for mastery of the overall skill, you'd have to have mastered placement use and maintenance of two out of three of these catheters in order for the skill to be considered mastered.

14:44:14 So we're going to say that, yes, I have mastered it. And that doesn't match. So, you know, everybody will be like, oh, no, it doesn't match. And we do have here, ensure the signature matches your exemplar.

14:44:27 And then you're going to upload those files where you've taken the submission requirements and you've made a document that you're going to submit. We want you to submit a PDF.

14:44:40 And you're going to click this upload button and then you're going to pick wherever your PDF is to just add it to the file. We have naming conventions underneath each One, this is true on every essential skill submission form. We have exactly how we want the document named. So please follow that. It just makes it easier on the other side when we're sending these out to teams of reviewers if everything is the same.

14:45:07 So your specialty, your applicant number, and then whatever the advanced skill is. So you can see for catheters, that's what it looks like. For transfusions.

14:45:16 There's just one document required. It's going to be a lot of things that you're going to have to include in there, but it's just one upload and you're going to have everything in there and that's going to be saying your SAIM applicant number.

14:45:28 Transfusions, right? Fluid ins and outs. We have a couple of different options here of what you have to include. And again, those are all outlined in the submission requirements that you will find linked in our application instructions.

14:45:45 So I want to take a second to talk a little bit about some of the pitfalls we've seen in the essential skills. First of all, in the introduction, I mentioned using the approved abbreviations for your Case Reports.

14:45:59 Those approved abbreviations are also fine to be used for your essential skills submissions. So you definitely want to take a look at that list and know the things that you need to expand on first mention and the abbreviations that you don't have to worry about expanding on first mention.

14:46:18 So the approved abbreviations list follows, it covers everything that you're going to submit as part of your application.

14:46:27 We talked a little bit, I showed you one set of submission requirements.

14:46:33 Again, those are all detailed online and linked in the application instructions as well as in that reference list that's on our webpage.

14:46:42 And it's really important that you read through those I would probably read through them two or three times before I even started writing it up. I think it's also, I think, Kate, this was a tip you gave another applicant is

14:46:59 To set like to make a template for every essential skill submission. And then you just have that template ready to go and then you'll have nice consistency across all of your essential skills.

14:47:12 What else do you think folks need to really focus on when it comes to their essential skills?

14:47:17 So one big pitfall that we've seen is copy and paste errors.

14:47:23 There's a lot of overlap between some of the essential skills that you'll write up.

14:47:22 Thank you.

14:47:28 And if you do want to keep it consistent, because we always emphasize keeping things consistent, you copy and paste.

14:47:36 Please just quadruple check that every detail in that write-up relates so that you're not leaving information from what you copied it in that shouldn't be there and you're forgetting to add stuff.

14:47:49 So that's big. Copy and paste, just be super careful. Don't get lazy with that.

14:47:56 And then the other thing is cross-referencing through the essential skills We do allow this just for the essential skill portion of the application so you can if you're writing up skill number seven, refer to skill number one. But that only is within the essential skills. It does not leave that

14:48:19 Yes.

14:48:17 Portion of the application. So to save time, to save reviewers hours of reading the same things over and over, you can reference back to other skills. And again, if you are referencing, just make sure If there needs to be a note like refer to skill number one, but note we

14:48:36 Use this piece of equipment instead of this.

14:48:40 Fantastic. This is really, that's something I think that is near and dear to Kate's specialty as well, because they have several interventional catheter

14:48:51 Procedures, for example, and you may have the same setup for And I don't know because I don't work in cardiology, but you might have a very similar setup for, you know.

14:49:03 Pigtail placement and for uh a pacemaker placement. Am I close?

14:49:20 There we go.

14:49:11 Well, yes. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So like my surgical suite setup is going to be almost the same for every procedure, but the equipment I pull is different. So if I'm referring to the other one. I'll say set up surgical suite, see PDA procedure

14:49:29 Pull this equipment and do it very specifically to the pacemaker that I'm putting in.

14:49:33 Yeah, excellent. Yes. Yeah, so we got really great feedback on our essential skill submissions for last year. It was the first year we did it. We're really excited to see your submissions this year.

14:49:50 And to answer any questions you might have.