ACVP
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ACVP Phase II Anatomic Pathology Examination Blueprint

The following categories and weighting represent the products of the 2024-2025 ACVP Job Task Analysis. The blueprint below delineates the percentage of test items on the ACVP Phase II Anatomic Pathology examination (beginning in 2026) specific to each category, represented as an approximation and/or range.

Type	Description	
Task 1	**Identify, characterize, and interpret microscopic conditions in domestic and non-domestic animals.**	**~40%**
Knowledge	Histopathologic features of conditions (e.g. osteoid in osteosarcoma, perpendicular kinetoplast in leishmaniasis, radiating acicular clefts in uric acid tophi)	
Knowledge	Microscopic descriptive terminology (e.g. Splendore-Hoeppli, flame figures, physaliferous cells, pluristratification)	
Knowledge	Morphologic diagnoses (e.g. acute versus chronic, ulcerative versus erosive, hyperplasia versus dysplasia versus neoplasia)	
Knowledge	Pathogenesis and expected progression of microscopic conditions	
Knowledge	Differential diagnoses and etiology of microscopic conditions (i.e. potential causes)	
Skill	Interpreting histologic features that define specific disease conditions to develop morphologic diagnoses, differential diagnoses, and potential causes	
Skill	Selecting and interpreting appropriate ancillary testing (e.g. IHC, PCR, clonality, special histochemical stains, electron microscopy) to differentiate microscopic conditions	
Skill	Identifying expected clinicopathologic (e.g. CBC, chemistry, urinalysis) and macroscopic abnormalities associated with microscopic conditions	
Task 2	**Identify, characterize, and interpret macroscopic conditions in domestic and non-domestic animals.**	**~23%**
Knowledge	Macroscopic features of conditions (e.g. patterns of pneumonias, hepatic necrosis, chronicity of disease, vascular or ischemic injuries)	
Knowledge	Macroscopic descriptive terminology (e.g. suppurative, umbilicated, malacia, miliary)	

Knowledge	Morphologic diagnoses (e.g. acute versus chronic, inflammation versus neoplasia, multifocal versus diffuse, tissue identification and distribution)	
Knowledge	Pathogenesis of macroscopic conditions	
Knowledge	Differential diagnoses and etiology of macroscopic conditions (i.e. potential causes and processes)	
Skill	Interpreting macroscopic features that define specific disease conditions to develop morphologic diagnoses, differential diagnoses, and potential causes	
Skill	Selecting and interpreting appropriate ancillary testing (e.g. microbiology, toxicology, molecular assays) to differentiate macroscopic conditions	
Skill	Identifying expected histopathologic findings, clinicopathologic correlates (e.g. cytology, CBC, chemistry, urinalysis), and other gross lesions (e.g. uremic pneumonitis in chronic renal disease) associated with macroscopic conditions.	
Task 3	**Interpret clinicopathologic data from domestic and non-domestic animals.**	**~12%**
Knowledge	Well-recognized clinicopathologic abnormalities using common laboratory assays (e.g. complete blood count, chemistry, urinalysis)	
Knowledge	Well-recognized cytologic features of conditions (e.g. negative staining bacilli in macrophages of mycobacteriosis; identifying viral inclusion bodies; classification of neoplasms as either epithelial, mesenchymal, or round cell)	
Skill	Recognizing the possible causes of laboratory abnormalities (e.g. monoclonal gammopathy in plasma cell neoplasia, lymphangiectasia causing hypoproteinemia, hypocholesterolemia, lymphopenia, and hypocalcemia)	
Skill	Interpreting clinicopathologic data to confirm a diagnosis, formulate differentials, and/or select ancillary diagnostic tests to confirm or exclude differential diagnoses	
Task 4	**Apply knowledge of pathology in domestic and non-domestic animals.**	**~25%**
Knowledge	Current veterinary anatomic pathology literature and textbooks	
Knowledge	Presentation, pathogenesis, progression, and diagnosis of well-recognized diseases (e.g. gross pathology, histology, clinical pathology, etiology)	
Knowledge	Newly described disease manifestations (e.g. gross pathology, histology, clinical pathology, etiology)	

Knowledge	well-recognized animal models of human disease (e.g. gross pathology, histology, clinical pathology, etiology, pathogenesis)	

Distribution by species	**% of questions on examination**
Domestic	48-58%
Laboratory animal	30-40%
Non-domestic	7-17%

Distribution by organ system	**% of questions on examination**
Hematopoietic	2-12%
Integument	3-13%
Cardiovascular	2-12%
Alimentary	3-13%
Pancreas, exocrine	1-11%
Hepatobiliary	4-14%
Endocrine	2-12%
Urinary	2-12%
Respiratory	3-13%
Nervous and special senses	2-12%
Musculoskeletal	1-11%
Reproductive	1-11%
Multisystemic/Other	2-12%
Non-organ based	1-11%

Distribution by topic	**% of questions on examination**
Immunity/Inflammation	15-25%
Disturbance of Growth/Neoplasia	15-25%
Cell Aging/Degeneration/Injury/Death	5-15%
Infection	15-25%
Hemodynamics	5-15%
Genetic	1-10%
Metabolic/Nutritional	5-15%
Laboratory Technology	1-15%

(Posted October 2025)