NOTICE: The exam content outlined is an overview of MDS-relevant knowledge and skills that are part of standard training during dermatology residency. Candidates for MDS certification who have not completed dermatology residency and demonstrated their proficiency through ABD general dermatology certification are required to demonstrate proficiency in these areas through satisfactory completion of an additional 50-item exam module.

Recognize characteristic clinical presentations of common skin cancers.
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma

Recognize common benign and pre-cancerous dermatologic conditions and distinguish them from skin cancers based on clinical findings.
- Actinic keratosis
- Cherry angioma
- Contact dermatitis
- Dermatofibroma
- Epidermoid cyst
- Keloid
- Lichen planus
- Lichenoid keratosis
- Melanocytic nevus
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Nummular dermatitis plaque
- Pilar cyst
- Porokeratosis
- Prurigo nodule
- Psoriasis plaque
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Sebaceous hyperplasia
- Seborrheic keratosis
- Solar lentigo
- Syringoma
- Tinea corporis
- Wart
- Xanthelasma
Diagnose skin cancers and in-situ cancers histologically.

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma, SCC-in-situ
- Atypical fibroxanthoma
- Bowen’s disease
- Cutaneous lymphoma
- Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans
- Eccrine carcinoma
- Extramammary Paget’s disease
- Lentigo maligna, melanoma-in-situ
- Merkel cell carcinoma
- Microcystic adnexal carcinoma
- Sebaceous carcinoma

Recognize benign and pre-cancerous dermatologic conditions and distinguish them from skin cancer based on correlating clinical and histologic findings.

- Actinic cheilitis
- Dermatofibroma
- Desmoplastic trichoepithelioma
- Epidermoid cyst
- Hypertrophic discoid lupus
- Hypertrophic lichen planus
- Lichenoid keratosis
- Lipoma
- Melanocytic nevus
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Nevus sebaceous
- Nummular dermatitis
- Pigmented actinic keratosis
- Pilar cyst
- Porokeratosis
- Proliferating pilar tumor
- Prurigo nodule
- Psoriasis
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Sebaceous adenoma
- Sebaceous hyperplasia
- Seborrheic keratosis
- Solar lentigo
- Syringoma
- Tinea corporis / kerion
- Trichoblastoma
- Trichoepithelioma
- Wart
- Xanthelasma