



EM Associateship Examinations: Standard setting and results

1. Purpose

This document aims to inform FEMTP, IEMTP and AEMTP trainees and supervisors about the method by which the examinations are developed, how the passing score is determined and how results are calculated. Trainees and supervisors are also recommended to refer to the following documents which relate to other aspects of the EMATP Examinations:

- [Studying for Examinations Guide](#)
- [Examinations Operational Guide](#)
- [EMATP Curriculum \(FEMTP, IEMTP and AEMTP Curriculum\)](#)
- [Training Handbook](#)

2. Examination Questions

The EMATP Examinations Working Group (Working Group for the EM Associateship Examinations) is responsible for developing and reviewing examination questions that are aligned to the relevant curriculum. Each question is subject to at least two separate reviews prior to final approval by the Lead and Deputy Lead of the Working Group. The Lead and Deputy Lead also approve each examination paper to ensure adequate and balanced coverage of curriculum topics.

3. Determining the Passing Score

The passing score for each examination is determined using a criterion-referenced standard setting method referred to as the Angoff method. This method is based on the minimum level of competency required, rather than a set pass mark, and takes into account the degree of difficulty of the questions that make up the paper.

The EM Associateship examinations are standard set by a group of subject matter experts in Emergency Medicine who are FACEMs and Diplomates in active clinical practice. Standard setters are trained in the Angoff Method, which is widely used in post-graduate education and involves the following steps:

1. Standard setters determine the percentage of 'Just at Standard' candidates who would be expected to correctly answer each question. A 'Just at Standard' candidate for each program is defined as one who has demonstrated a minimum or sufficient level of knowledge and understanding, as defined by the relevant curriculum, to ensure safe practice and to meet the core needs of the patient.
2. The median of all standard setters' 'Just at Standard' ratings is calculated for each question to determine each question's cut score.
3. To calculate the passing score for an examination, the average of all the cut scores of the questions comprising the examination is calculated and rounded down to the nearest whole number.

4. Calculating results

Candidates who achieve a total score at or above the passing score, pass the examination. Examination results are confirmed with the Lead and Deputy Lead of the Working Group.

5. Communication of results

Candidates receive an email notifying them of their examination result within two weeks following the examination date.

Results reflect a successful or unsuccessful outcome. Unsuccessful candidates also receive their score range.

6. Exceptional Circumstances and Special Consideration

The Exceptional Circumstances and Special Consideration Policy can be found on the [ACEM Website](#) and clearly defines circumstances warranting special consideration. If a candidate feels an application is warranted, they must submit this to the EMATP Exams Team in accordance with the policy.

The time frame for an application to be submitted prior to the examination is at least three weeks before the examination date. A separate application should be submitted for each examination attempt. Refer to the policy or contact the EMATP Exam Team (EMATPexams@acem.org.au) for any concerns about examination preparation or if circumstances arose on the examination day that may have impacted exam performance.

7. Feedback from Candidates and Supervisors

The College is committed to continuing to improve the examinations and assessment processes and welcomes feedback and constructive suggestions from stakeholders to assist in achieving this goal.