



CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

Nonprofit Company (Reg No.1955/000003/08)
Nonprofit Organisation (Reg. No. 009-874 NPO)
Vat No. 4210273191

27 Rhodes Avenue, PARKTOWN WEST, 2193

Tel: +27 11 726 7037; Fax: +27 11 726 4036

JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

Website:

www.cmsa.co.za

General:

Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za

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R E G U L A T I O N S

FOR ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

FC Rad Onc(SA)

1.0 STRUCTURE

The examination comprises Part I and Part II: The Part I is valid for six (6) years and Part II must be passed within four (4) years of completing training time

PART 1

2.0 ADMISSION TO THE PART I EXAMINATION

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

2.1 For admission to Part I the candidate must

- 2.1.1 hold a post-internship qualification to practise medicine which has been registered or is registrable with the Health Professions Council of South Africa
- 2.1.2 have trained in a recognised registrar training post for a minimum of 6 months, and be a registrar at the time of applying for the examination.
- 2.1.3 An HoD letter must be provided by the candidate at each sitting of the examination. This should include proof of current enrolment in a training program.¹

2.2 The College of Radiation Oncology together with the CMSA Senate, through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review all applications for admission to the examination and may also review the ethical and professional standing of candidates

2.3 The CMSA may accept part-time training for up to 50% of the training time required for admission to the examination if approved by Radiation Oncology College Council and subject to local hospital policy, provided the candidate submits evidence of prior approval by the Health Professions Council of South Africa that a part-time programme is acceptable for specialist registration

3.0 SYLLABUS FOR THE PART I EXAMINATION

See Annexure A

https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=34

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¹ Additional information required with applications

4.0 CONDUCT OF THE PART I EXAMINATION

4.1 The examination will consist of three web based online examinations consisting of SBA(single best answer) or short question format as follows:²

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- 4.1.1 Three web-based on-line examinations, as follows:
- 4.1.1.1 Paper 1 – Physics (3 hours).*
- 4.1.1.2 Paper 2 – Radiobiology and cancer biology (3 hours)*
- 4.1.1.3 Paper 3 – Applied anatomy (3 hours)*
- 4.1.2 Questions will consist of MCQ-type or short answer questions with a maximum of 5 marks per sub-question.
- 4.1.3 A standard setting meeting will determine the pass mark for each paper. The meeting will be called by the Part 1 moderator and will take place within 3 days of the examination. No less than 6, but preferably 8 examiners, ideally representing all geographical departments in the country will be present for each paper standard setting.
- 4.1.4 In order to pass the Part 1 examination, candidates need to achieve a pass mark as determined by the standard setting method for each of the 3 papers specified.
- 4.1.5 A candidate who fails 1 of the 3 papers, but who passes the other 2 papers with the pass mark defined by standard setting, will be exempt from re -writing the papers they passed in the following semester.

*Additional time will be allocated as per CMSA to compensate for on-line format and typing.

PART II**5.0 ADMISSION TO THE PART II EXAMINATION³**

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

- 5.1 For admission to Part II of the examination a candidate must
- 5.1.1 have completed Part I in the last 6 years (see point 1.0)
- 5.1.2 have been qualified to practice medicine for at least five years (the year of internship or its equivalent may not be counted as one of these five years)
- 5.1.3 produce evidence of having completed thirty-six months of instruction and training in a fulltime post in an accredited training department for Radiation Oncology.
- 5.1.4 provide the following documents to the CMSA at the time of application:
- A list of case reports (minimum 20)
 - Marked statistical review of an Oncology article.
 - Summary of rotation and training
 - Letter of adequate academic progress from HOD of academic department where registrar time was completed and dated no more than 6 months prior to admission is required.
 - If the candidate is no longer in a training post then a letter from the current employer outlining an oncology-related job description (dated no more than 6 months prior) is required.
 - A signed declaration (See portfolio checklist).
- 5.2 The full Portfolio, will include, inter alia, a logbook of procedures, marked case reports, signed logbook of procedures, and a statistical review of an article. The full portfolio must be submitted by the candidate to the CMSA electronically on invitation to the OSPE/ORAL for evaluation prior to the OSPE/ORAL. All candidates should have access to their physical portfolio when presenting for the OSPE/ORAL.

6.0 SYLLABUS FOR THE PART II EXAMINATION

See Annexure B

https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=34

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² Examination format – Effective FS 2022

³ Change in eligibility criteria

7.0 CONDUCT OF THE PART II EXAMINATION

The examination will consist of:

- 7.1 Three written papers of MCQ(BSA) or short question format will be used which will be web-based online examinations as follows:⁴
- 7.1.1 Paper 1 – Tumour pathology and general oncology – (3 hours)*
 - 7.1.2 Paper 2- Radiation and medical oncology.(Breast, gynaecological, head and neck and gastrointestinal cancers). (3 hours)*
 - 7.1.3 Paper 3 – Radiation and medical oncology. (Urological, lung, haematological, CNS, skin and miscellaneous cancers) – (3 hours)*

*Additional time will be allocated as per CMSA to compensate for on-line format and typing.

- 7.1.4 Questions will consist of MCQ(SBA)-type or short answer questions with a maximum of 5 marks per sub-question.
- 7.2 The written papers will have a pass mark ascertained at a standard setting examiners meeting and must be passed in order to be eligible to be invited to the structured oral examination(SOE) and OSPE(objective structured practical examination). Paper 1 will be assessed at standard setting on its own. Paper 2 and Paper 3 will have a combined pass mark assessed at standard setting since these papers form 2 parts of a single body of knowledge.
- 7.2.1 A standard setting meeting will determine the pass mark for each paper. The meeting will be called by the Part 2 moderator and will take place within 3 days of the examination. No less than 6, but preferably 8 examiners, ideally representing all geographical departments in the country will be present for each paper standard setting.
- 7.3 The OSPE and oral examinations may be held on-line or in person as designated by the college of Radiation Oncology prior to each examination.
- 7.4 OSPE examinations:
- 7.3.1 The objective structured practical examination (OSPE) will be concerned with proficiency in technical aspects of radiotherapy and chemotherapy administration and palliative care. This will contain a minimum of 10 stations and will be conducted over a minimum of 2 hours. (See OSPE protocol for station allocation)
 - 7.3.2 The OSPE examination must be passed overall.
- 7.4 Structured oral examinations(SOE):
- 7.4.1 Will consist of 3 viva voce(oral) examinations of 45 minutes each, consisting of:
- Clinical case oral(previously called OSPE oral)
 - General oral: Applied knowledge of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, molecular cancer treatments
 - Portfolio oral: Insight into portfolio case reports
- 7.4.2. Each candidate will have three oral examinations, each with a different pair of examiners and is required to pass each oral examination.
- 7.4.3 Orals will be marked using the Oral Marking Rubric.(appendix D) Each case in the clinical case oral will be marked on a separate Oral Marking Rubric which will be submitted to the moderator by each examiner for collating. For the General oral and the Portfolio oral, each case will be marked separately by each examiner who will submit a **single rubric per candidate** reflecting the average score from all cases assessed in the oral.
- 7.5 In the event that a candidate passes the OSPE, and two of the orals, but fails one of the 3 orals with $\geq 45\%$, then a repeat oral will be done immediately by a second set of examiners and will be attended by the Part II moderator. In this case, the final oral mark will be an overall combined score from the failing oral and the repeat oral examinations, and must be passed with a score of at least 50%.

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⁴ Examination format – Effective FS 2022

- 7.6 Candidates who score exceptional marks in all of the domains tested, may be eligible for the College of Radiation Oncology medal. Such candidates are identified by the convenor and agreed to by the moderator. The candidate will be offered an additional Medal structured oral examination(SOE), which will take place immediately after the main oral examinations. 2 examiners and the moderator must unanimously agree to the award which must be ratified at the examiner's meeting by an overwhelming majority vote. Any candidate who declines an additional medal SOE will not receive the medal, and the existing marks will stand.
- 7.6 Candidates who achieve the required marks in the written component of the examination but who fail the OSPE and/or oral clinical examinations will be exempt from the written component of the next examination. Such exemption applies to one sitting only and must be exercised in the following semester.

8.0 ADMISSION AS A FELLOW

8.1 Only candidates who have completed training in a CMSA recognised registrar post may be awarded a fellowship if successful in the examination.

8.2 All other candidates will be asked to sign a declaration as below:

I, the undersigned, do solemnly and sincerely declare

that while a member of the CMSA I will at all times do all within my power to promote the objects of the CMSA and uphold the dignity of the CMSA and its members

that I will observe the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, By-laws, Regulations and Code of Ethics of the CMSA as in force from time to time

that I will obey every lawful summons issued by order of the Senate of the said CMSA, having no reasonable excuse to the contrary

and I make this solemn declaration faithfully promising to adhere to its terms

Signed at this day of

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Signature

Witness

(who must be a Founder, Associate Founder, Fellow, Member, Diplomat or Commissioner of Oaths)

8.3 A two-thirds majority of members of the CMSA Senate present at the relevant meeting shall be necessary for the award to any candidate of a Fellowship.

8.4 A Fellow shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the CMSA

8.5 Attainment of a Fellowship does not automatically allow registration with HPCSA.

8.6 The first annual subscription is due one year after registration (statements are rendered annually)

Annexure C

Recommended textbooks - https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=34

Annexure D

Structured oral examination marking rubric -
https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=34