



C M S A

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

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REGULATIONS

FOR ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE COLLEGE

OF PATHOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

FC Path(SA) Oral

1. COMPONENTS

At present the examination is a two-part examination. The examination comprises FC Path(SA) Oral Part I and FC Path(SA) Oral Part II. Part II must be passed within six years of passing the Part I.

2. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

The aim of this assessment is to evaluate if the candidate who has completed the minimum training period has acquired the appropriate professional knowledge, skills and attitude stipulated by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) training requirements and standards in order to be licensed by the HPCSA as a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. This assessment is one of two components of the HPCSA requirement for registration as an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist. The other component of the registration requirement is the submission of a research dissertation by the host university.

3. ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

(To be read in conjunction with the instructions)

3.1 PART I

3.1.1 *A candidate may be admitted to Part I of the examination having:*

- A qualification to practice dentistry and have met all requirements for registration as a Dental Practitioner with the HPCSA.
- Completed at least 18 months of full-time training as a Registrar in an accredited Anatomical Pathology teaching laboratory by the time of writing the Part I examination.

3.2 PART II

3.2.1 *A candidate may be admitted to Part II of the examination having:*

- A qualification to practice dentistry and meeting all criteria required for registration as a Dental Practitioner with the HPCSA.
- Completed 24 months of full-time training as a Registrar in an accredited Anatomical Pathology teaching laboratory and at least 24 months of full-time training as a Registrar in an accredited Oral Pathology Division or Department by the time of writing the Part II examination.
- Successfully completed Part I of the FC Path(SA) Oral examination.
- The candidate will be required to submit a certificate from each of the Head(s) of Department where he/she has received full-time training, showing that he/she has completed a minimum of 20 autopsies satisfactorily under supervision and has achieved competency in the performance of autopsy examination. All of these cases must be fully reported and authorised at the time of registration for the Part II examination. The candidate should also be declared competent in the cutting and staining of frozen sections.
- A portfolio of training must be submitted for evaluation to confirm that the above have been adequately and satisfactorily completed.

3.2.2 The CMSA Senate, through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review every application for admission to the examination, and may also consider the professional and ethical standing of the candidate.

4. FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

4.1. Conduct of the Part I examination, with candidates needing to pass both components, comprises:

4.1.1. One 3-hour closed-book written examination paper, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

• *The format of the examination will include the following:*

- Answer all questions
- A mixture of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy.
- The written paper will be identical to the exam set for the FC Path(SA) Anat Part I examination.

4.1.2. A 3-hour closed book practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

• *The format of the examination will include the following:*

- Answer all questions
- An H&E-stained section from each of 30 different histopathological cases (including surgical or autopsy cases). Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. Candidates will be asked to provide the diagnosis only.
- These slides will comprise basic medical and surgical pathology and each slide will be diagnosable at a morphological level. No dual pathologies will be included.
- Cytopathology will not be included.
- This part of the examination will be identical to the exam set for the FC Path(SA) Anat Part I.

4.1.3. **The weighting of the final mark will be as follows:**

Written paper	50%
Histopathology slides	50%

The candidate must achieve the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in both components. Failure in either of the two components will result in overall failure of the Part I examination.

4.2. The Part II examination, with candidates needing to pass all components, comprises:

4.2.1. Two 3-hour closed-book written examination papers, with their combined pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

• ***The format of the examination will include the following:***

- Answer all questions.
- A mixture of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy. Questions may require answers in different formats including short notes, analysis and discussion, and will be based on clinical or histological information to illustrate relevant facts and facilitate interpretation.
- Both papers could include the following components and others, using a blueprinting process:
 - The principles and practices of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. This will include the classification, pathogenesis and epidemiology of diseases, molecular pathology and special techniques (immunohistochemistry, molecular techniques, morphometry and radiology) needed for diagnosis.
 - Laboratory management, accreditation, quality assurance as well as the ethical and moral practice of pathology may be included.

4.2.2 A 3 to 4 hour closed book histopathology practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

• ***The format of the examination will include the following:***

- Answer all questions
- An H&E-stained section from each of 30 different histopathological cases (including surgical cases). Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. Candidates will be asked to provide the diagnosis.
- The candidate must pass this part of the examination.

4.2.3 An interactive examination of up to 3-hours duration

- The ability of the candidate to practice safely as an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists will be assessed.
- The examination will be interactive and may include stations with histology sections, clinical photos, radiographs or a combination thereof.
- The candidate must achieve at least 50% to pass this part of the examination.

The weighting to determine the final mark will be as follows:

Written papers I & II	40%
Histopathology slides	30%
Interactive examination	30%

The candidate must achieve a subminimum of 50% in each of the components, and an overall mark of at least 50% to pass the examination.

ADMISSION AS A FELLOW

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

5.1 **Candidates who have written the examination as a prerequisite from the HPCSA for inclusion on the specialist register are not eligible to be awarded a Fellowship but will be sent a letter confirming their success in the examinations**

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 20

Signature

Witness

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

5.2 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

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

5.4 In the event of a candidate not being awarded the Fellowship (after having passed the examination) the examination fee shall be refunded in full excluding HPCSA candidates who are not entitled to a Fellowship.

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