



CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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Vat No. 4210273191

COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGY

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Notice on Standard setting for FCOG FINAL EXAM

"The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, as many other examination bodies around the world, recognises that examination difficulty is examination-specific. While the member colleges of the CMSA strive to offer examinations which are equivalent, using processes such as blue printing and pre-examination moderation, the CMSA acknowledge that no two examinations can be identical. In this context, a fixed pass mark (50% or any other predetermined value) does not provide a means of setting a pass mark responsive to the difficulty of an individual examination. For this reason, the CMSA encourages individual colleges to adopt a method of standard setting which aims to set a pass mark responsive to the difficulty of an examination. The specific method adopted by individual colleges will be determined by a process of consultation with the Education and Assessment Unit of the CMSA."

After consultation with the Education and Assessment Unit, the method of standard setting chosen by the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is the modified Cohen method, using the 90th centile of candidate performance, as recommended in the paper by Taylor (Taylor, 2011- <https://cmsa.co.za/document/taylor-development-of-a-modified-cohen-method-of-standard-setting/>). The CMSA recommends the use of a multiplier of 65% for exit level postgraduate examinations and this can be amended, if necessary, using the strategy proposed in the paper by Taylor (Taylor, 2011- <https://cmsa.co.za/document/taylor-development-of-a-modified-cohen-method-of-standard-setting/>)."

Standard setting will be applied effective First Semester FCOG Final 2026 exams

Prof Zozo Nene

President: College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (CMSA)

Further reading: A standard setting method with the best performing students as point of reference: Practical and affordable <https://cmsa.co.za/document/a-standard-setting-method-with-the-best-performing-students/>