



# **CERTIFYING EXAMINATION PROCESS**

Certification in Maternal Fetal Medicine is a three (3) part examination that aims to assess mastery of the knowledge and skills in the subspecialty. Competency in the diagnosis and management of the high-risk pregnant patients will be evaluated from pre-conception until post-partum, including maternal and fetal surveillance and appropriate therapeutic interventions.

Successful examinees will be given a certificate of proficiency in Maternal Fetal Medicine and proficiency in basic and advanced obstetric ultrasound. *Starting 2022, the certificate will include proficiency in basic gynecologic ultrasound.*

## PART I WRITTEN EXAMINATION

### A. CONTENT

The objective of the written examination is to evaluate the knowledge and clinical application in the diagnosis, investigation, management and prognosis of high-risk pregnant patients.

### B. CONDUCT

The written examination consists of 180 objective type questions to be answered in 3 hours. The questions are multiple choice type, in one best answer format and distributed as follows: recall- 20%, analysis, comprehension and interpretation- 40% and problem solving- 40%. The passing grade shall be set according to the minimum passing level (MPL) determined by the PBMFM.

*Starting 2022, the coverage of the examination will include the modules of the Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum, October 2020 (Refer to Table II).*

**TABLE I  
TEST BLUEPRINT/COVERAGE OF TOPICS**

TOPICS	POINTS
Maternal/fetal physiology	20
Disorders of maternal/fetal interphase and critically ill pregnant women	45
Fetal disorders	16
Medical complications	34
Obstetrics imaging/ prenatal testing Fetal surveillance/ fetal therapy	30
Images	25
OB anesthesia	10

**TABLE II  
TEST BLUEPRINT/COVERAGE OF TOPICS**

TOPICS	POINTS
Ethical, legal and other professional aspects of maternal-fetal medicine & OB-GYN ultrasound	
Gynecologic sonography	
Anatomy and physiologic changes in pregnancy (maternal and fetal)	
Fetal disorders and therapy	
Disorders at the maternal-fetal interface	
Medical complications in pregnancy	
Surgical complications during pregnancy	
Obstetric anesthesia	
Critically ill pregnant patients	
Care of the woman with a medical disorder during labor and delivery	
Obstetric imaging and fetal interventions	
Gynecologic pathologies	

## PART II ORAL EXAMINATION

### A. CONTENT

The objective of the oral examination is to evaluate the ability to manage a given hypothetical high risk pregnant patient with regard to:

- Formulation of prompt and logical diagnosis based on the relevant clinical data, appropriate laboratory and diagnostic reports
- Identification of immediate need and problems and rationalization of the proposed intervention and alternatives
- Demonstration of critical judgment and expertise in clinical problem-solving and decision making.
- Demonstration of equanimity and logical reasoning under stressful conditions.

### B. CONDUCT

1. There will be three (3) panels with three (3) members each. Guest examiners may be invited as the need arises, from among the BOT and the past members of the PBMFM. The PBMFM chairperson will provide the panel assignments of the examiners. He / She shall have the prerogative to reconstitute a panel and to reassign examinees to another panel as the need arises. At no instance shall the oral examination start if there are only two (2) members of the panel present. The examinees will know the members of the panel ONLY at the time of examination.
2. Each examinee will be given three (3) cases- one (1) case will be given by each panel, to be answered in thirty (30) minutes. The examinee will move from one panel to another. Each examiner shall grade the examinee individually and independently. The average of the grades will be the final grade. Questions must be answered correctly using a checklist. Minimum passing score is seventy (70) percent. The examinee must have a passing grade on ALL three panels.

3. A re-panel will be allowed if the examinee failed in one (1) panel. He/She shall be given another case with a different panel on the same day. Minimum passing score is seventy (70) percent.

## PART III PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

### A. CONTENT

The objective of the practical examination is to demonstrate the proficiency of the examinee to perform basic and advanced obstetric, including invasive procedures. *Starting 2022, basic gynecologic ultrasound will be included in the practical examination.*

### B. CONDUCT

Each examinee must be prepared to perform congenital anomaly scan, doppler studies and basic gynecologic ultrasound. A station for invasive procedures will be part of the examination. The examiner shall grade the performance of the procedures using a checklist. Minimum passing score is seventy (70) percent.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EXAMINATION

1. The written examination is a pre-requisite to the oral examination. The oral examination is a pre-requisite to the practical examination.
2. Presentation of the examination slip is a requirement before the start of each examination. An examinee shall not be allowed to take the examination without the examination slip.
3. The certifying examination will be given only once a year. The examinees will be informed by the administrative assistant of the date, time and venue 3-4 weeks before. The dates may change, in the event of calamities, particularly typhoons. The date and time of the practical examination shall be arranged with the assigned examiner.
4. Examinees who fail to appear on the day of the examination shall submit, within one (1) week, a letter of explanation to the chairperson of the PBMFM through the secretary. This is to ensure that the present examination fee is not forfeited and will be applied to the next examination within one (1) year. The validity of the letter of explanation shall be decided in an en banc meeting of the PBMFM. Should the candidate decide to take the examination within one (1) year as allowed, he/she should request approval from PBMFM during the application period.
5. For applicants not eligible to take the examination, the secretary of the PBMFM shall write a letter enumerating the deficiencies in the submitted requirements. The applicant may re-submit the requirements in time for the examination in the succeeding year, after he/she has addressed the deficiencies.

6. Electronic devices are not allowed during the examination. If such a device is discovered at any time during the examination, the examinee shall be asked to submit her test paper and leave the examination room. The examination fee will be forfeited.
7. Academic misconduct particularly cheating is a grave offense. The examinee will be asked to leave the examination premises.
8. Graduates of the fellowship training program should take the certifying examination **within five (5) years from the end of the training program**. For applicants beyond five (5) years, a letter of appeal, stating the reason for the delay, should be submitted to the chairperson of the committee on training and membership. The appeal is presented to the PSMFM BOT for the final decision.

## **WITHDRAWAL**

Notice of withdrawal from the examination must be given in writing (email or letter) to the PBMFM chairperson thru the secretary. Only written requests will be accepted as official withdrawal request. The examination fee shall be refunded in full if the notice has been received seven (7) days before the examination date. If the notice is received less than seven (7) days before the examination date, fifty (50) percent of the fee will be refunded. No show on the examination day will forfeit the fee. The examination fee is non-transferable.

## OUTCOME OF THE CERTIFYING EXAMINATION

The outcome of the examination shall be one of the following:

An examinee who has fulfilled the minimum requirements of the written, oral and practical examination **PASSED** the certifying examination. An examinee who has not fulfilled the minimum requirements of the written, oral and practical examination **FAILED** the certifying examination.

Result of the written examination shall be disclosed to the examinee by the secretary of the PBMFM thru SMS and email. Result of the oral examination shall be disclosed to the examinee by the secretary of the PBMFM on the same day of the examination. It is the examinee's responsibility to arrange the schedule of the practical examination with the assigned examiner. The examiner shall not disclose the result of the practical examination. Announcement of the results shall be made by the secretary of the PBMFM. Results of the examination are final.

An examinee who failed the written examination **after three (3) attempts** must attend a review course given by the training institution prior to re-applying for the written examination, provided that it is within five (5) years from graduation.

An examinee will be given **three (3) consecutive years to pass the oral examination**. Failure of the candidate to pass and/or take within the period of three years will automatically forfeit the written examination.

An examinee will be given **three (3) consecutive years to pass the practical examination**. Failure of the candidate to pass and/or take within the period of three years will automatically forfeit the written and oral examination.