



**PBMFM
CERTIFYING EXAMINATION
PROCESS**

(For Training Institutions)

Revised January 2026

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Certification in Maternal Fetal Medicine is a 3-part examination that aims to assess mastery of the knowledge and skills in the subspecialty. The competency in the diagnosis and management of high-risk pregnancies is evaluated from pre-conception until the postpartum period, with close maternal and fetal surveillance and appropriate therapeutic interventions.

Successful examinees will be given a certificate as FELLOW in Maternal Fetal Medicine with proficiency in basic and advanced obstetric ultrasound including certification of 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

1. The written examination consists of MFM (75%) and Gynecology (25%) questions,
 - a. 250 multiple choice questions (200 MFM, 50 gyne), in one best answer format, and
 - b. 50 ultrasound images (30 OB, 20 Gyne)
2. The test blue print of the exam questions will include recall, analysis and problem solving questions.

3. The coverage of the examination includes modules of the Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum. The topics include the following:
 - a. Maternal/fetal physiology
 - b. Disorders at maternal-fetal interphase
 - c. Fetal disorders and therapy
 - d. Medical complications in pregnancy
 - e. Surgical complications during pregnancy
 - f. Obstetric anesthesia
 - g. Critically-ill pregnant patients
 - h. Fetal Surveillance
 - i. Care of the woman with a medical disorder during labor and delivery
 - j. Fetal Therapy/ Fetal interventions
 - k. Prenatal testing
 - l. Basic gynecology (clinico-sonologic correlation)
 - m. Obstetric images (30)
 - n. Gynecologic Images (20)
4. The passing grade of the multiple choice questions is set according to the Minimum Passing Level (MPL) determined by the board examiners.
5. Seventy percent (70%) grade of the images (35 points) will be added to the MPL of the multiple choice questions (35 points + MPL).

PART II: ORAL EXAMINATION

A. Content

The objective of the oral examination is to evaluate the ability to manage a given clinical case according to:

- Formulation of diagnosis based on the relevant clinical data, appropriate laboratory and diagnostic results

- Identification of problems and rationalization of the proposed intervention.
- Demonstration of critical judgment and expertise in problem-solving and decision-making.
- Demonstration of logical reasoning under time pressure

B. Conduct

- There will be three (3) panels, one (1) case per panel. Each panel with two to three (2-3) examiners.
- All current members of PBMFM will comprise the panels
- The PBMFM chair assigns the panel assignment of the board examiners.
- The PBMFM chair has the prerogative to re-assemble a panel and to re-assign an examinee to another panel as the need arises.
- An examinee will be assigned to a panel just before the start of the oral examination, ensuring that NO member of the panel is the section chief or training officer of the institution where fellowship training was done.
- Each examinee will be given 1 clinical case to be answered in 20 minutes, and will move to the next 2 panels, completing total of 3 panels.
- Each examiner shall grade the examinee individually and independently, using the scoresheet. The average of the grades of the 2-3 examiners will be the final grade.
- The passing grade is seventy percent (70%) and an examinee must have passed ALL three panels.
- A re-panel will be allowed only if the examinee has a score of 60-69.99% in one (1) of 3 panels.
- A re-panel will be conducted on the same day using a new clinical case given by a different set of examiners. A passing grade for the re-panel must be seventy percent (70%).
- An outright FAILED grade is given to the following:
 - An examinee gets a grade of below 60% in at least 1 panel
 - An examinee gets a grade of 60-69.99% in 2 or 3 panel

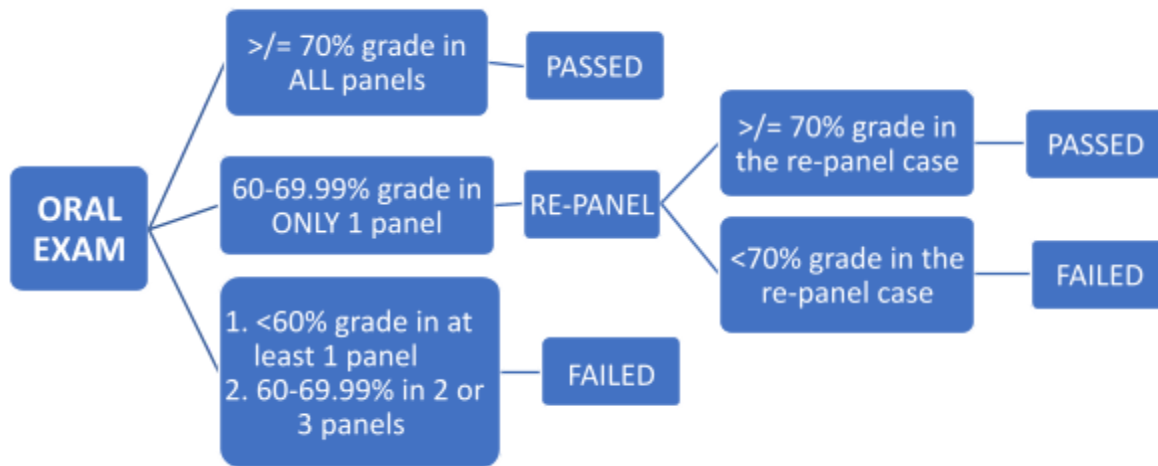


Figure 1: Oral Exam Outcome

PART III: PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

A. Content

The objective of the practical examination is to demonstrate the proficiency of the examinee in performing basic and advanced obstetric ultrasound, basic gynecologic ultrasound, interpretation of CTG tracings, and perinatal invasive procedures in Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) format.

B. Conduct

- Two examiners will conduct the examination and grade the examinee's performance using a scoresheet. The average of the grades of the 2 examiners will be the final grade.
- An examinee must demonstrate proficiency in scanning in 5 stations.
- All current members of the board of examiners will conduct the exam
- The PBMFM chair assigns the examiners for each station.

- The PBMFM chair has the prerogative to re-assemble the examiners within the station and to re-assign an examinee to another station as the need arises.
- An examinee will be assigned to a station just before the start of the oral examination, ensuring that NO member of the panel is the section chief or training officer of the institution where fellowship training was done.
- The passing grade is seventy percent (70%) and an examinee must have passed ALL 5 stations.
- A re-examination will be allowed only if the examinee has a score of 60-69.99% in one (1) of 5 stations.
- A re-examination will be conducted on the same day in the same station where the examinee failed, with a different set of examiners. A passing grade for the re-panel must be at least seventy percent (70%).
- An outright FAILED grade is given to the following:
 - An examinee gets a grade of below 60% in at least 1 station
 - An examinee gets a grade of 60-69.99% in 2 or 5 stations

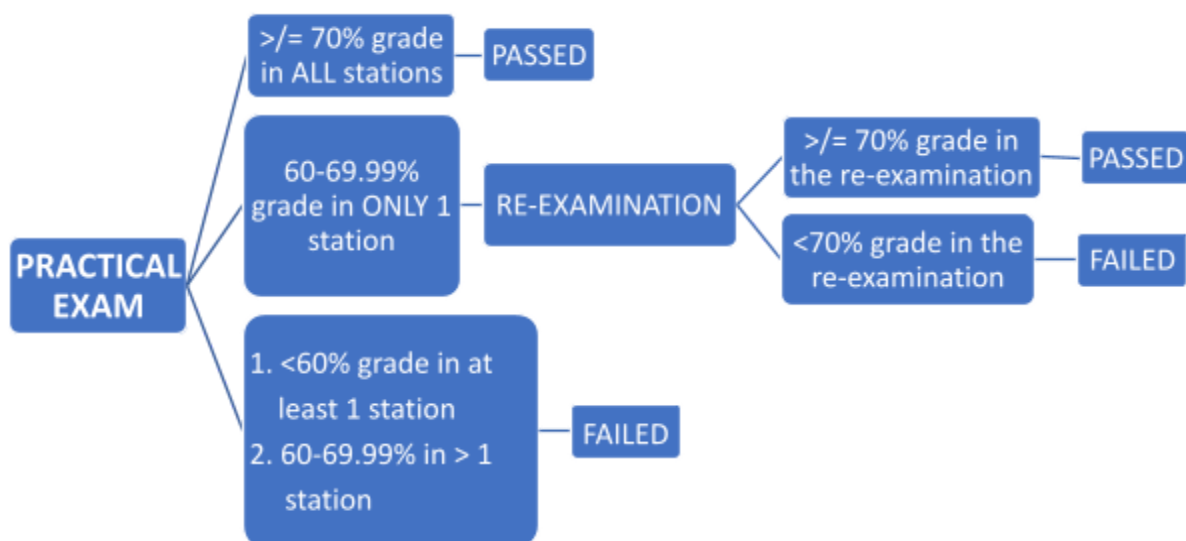


Figure 2: Practical Exam Outcome

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CERTIFYING EXAMINATIONS

1. The certifying examination will be given only once a year.
2. Graduates of the accredited fellowship training program should take the certifying examination within three (3) years from graduation.
3. For applicants who plan to take the exam beyond three (3) years from graduation, a letter of appeal, stating the reason for the delay, should be submitted to the Secretary of PBMFM by December 31. And this will be presented to the PSMFM-BOT for the final decision.
 - An examinee who fails the written examination after three (3) attempts must attend a review course provided by the training institution, before re-applying for the written examination, provided that the application is within five (5) years from graduation. The examinee must present a certification of completion for the review course and present the certificates of attendance in the PSMFM annual convention for the last three (3) years.
 - 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.
4. The examinees will be informed by the PSMFM secretariat of the date, time and venue 4 weeks before the schedule of the 3-day

certifying examinations. The dates may change, in the event of calamities, particularly typhoons.

5. An examinee who fails to appear on the day of the examinations shall submit a letter of explanation to the PBMFM Chair within 1 week. This is to ensure that the current examination fee will not be forfeited and can be applied to the next scheduled examination, preferably within one (1) year, with approval of the PBMFM during that application period.
6. The validity of the letter of explanation shall be decided during an en-banc meeting of the PBMFM.
7. For applicants not eligible to take the examination, the PBMFM Secretary shall write a letter enumerating the deficiencies of the submitted requirements. The applicant may re-submit the completed requirements in time for the certifying examinations in the succeeding year.
8. The written examination is a prerequisite to the oral examination.
9. The oral examination is a prerequisite to the practical examination.
10. An examination slip is a requirement before the start of each examination. No examinee shall be allowed to take the examination without the examination slip.
11. An examinee will be assigned an identification (ID) no. that will be used during the examination.
12. Electronic devices (cellphones, ipads and smart watches) are not allowed during the written examination. If such a device is discovered at any time during the examination, the examinee shall

forfeit the right to finish the examination, including the examination fee.

13. Academic misconduct, particularly cheating, is a grave offense. This includes being caught with devices (cellphones, ipads, smart watches, any communication and data recording/ storage device) during the examination. If such a device is discovered at any time during the examination, it will be considered as academic misconduct. The examinee will be asked to leave the examination premises. The examinee shall forfeit the right to finish the examination, including the examination fee. He/She will not be allowed to take the certifying exam in the next 3 years.
14. Should the examinee decide to take the exam after 3 years, he/she should submit a letter of appeal to take the exam. He/She should also submit a new set of requirements for taking the certifying exam and the following: certificate of good standing from POGS, attendance of the PSMFM annual convention for the past 3 years.

WITHDRAWAL

1. Notice of withdrawal from the examination must be given in writing to the PBMFM chair thru the PBMFM secretary.
2. Only written requests will be accepted as official withdrawal requests.
3. The examination fee shall be refunded in full if the notice of withdrawal has been received seven (7) days before the examination date. If the notice is received less than seven (7) days before the examination date, only fifty percent (50%) of the fee will be refunded.

4. "No show" on the examination days will forfeit the examination fee.
5. The examination fee is non-transferable.

OUTCOME OF THE CERTIFYING EXAMINATION

1. The outcome of the examination shall be one of the following:
 - **PASSED** - An examinee who has fulfilled the minimum requirements of the certifying written, oral and practical examinations.
 - **FAILED** - An examinee who has not fulfilled the minimum requirements of the certifying written, oral and practical examinations.
2. The result of the written examination shall be disclosed to the examinee by the PBMFM Secretary thru SMS or email.
3. The results of the oral and practical examinations shall be disclosed to the examinee by the PBMFM Secretary on the same day of the examination.
4. A conforme letter regarding the final result of the exam must be signed by the examinee prior to the start of the written exam.
5. Announcement of the final results of the certifying examinations, after en-banc deliberation of the PBMFM, shall be made by the PBMFM Secretary. **THE RESULTS ARE DEEMED FINAL AND NON-CONTESTABLE.**

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
Philippine Board of Maternal Fetal Medicine 2025

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LindaLuisa Yandoc, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Ireene G. Cacas-David, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Ma. Nellvbezz C. Candelaria, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Kristina L. Dosdos, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Karen M. Faustino, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Olivia Jane C. Fernandez, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Gay B. Guiyab, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Mila Z. Ibay, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Richard Jordias, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Pilar Lagman-Dy, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Joseph U. Olivar, MD, MhPed, FPOGS, FPSMFM
Joanna Zerline Lozada-Pascual, MD, FPOGS, FPSMFM

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- This was officially approved and endorsed by the Philippine Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (PSMFM) Board of Trustees during the PBMFM and PSMFM Joint meeting on January 22, 2026, for use in Fellowship Training Programs nationwide.