

SUBJECT EXAMINATION PROGRAM

PEDIATRICS EXAMINATION

GRADING GUIDELINES



The NBME conducted webcast standard setting studies for the Pediatrics Subject Examination with medical school faculty. For each study, medical school faculty who were past or present clerkship directors (97% for 2016 and 86% for 2021) in Pediatrics participated as expert judges in webcast sessions that utilized Zoom to train participants in the standard setting procedure. Judges reviewed the content and rated the difficulty of each item on a current form of the examination. The study employed both a Modified Angoff content-based procedure and the Hofstee Compromise standard setting method. These two procedures together provide proposed passing standards that are based on an in-depth item-by-item analysis of the examination content, as well as a more global analysis of the content. The results were summarized and the proposed standards were expressed as the proportion of the content required for an examinee to pass and to receive honors status. Table 1 provides a summary of the medical school faculty who served as expert judges and their school information for each of the webcast studies conducted by the NBME.

Table 1 – Demographics of Judges and Schools Participating in the Pediatrics Webcast Study

Standard Setting Study	Number Judges ¹	Years Experience	Number Schools	Use COMSEP Curriculum	Traditional Curriculum	Problem-Based Curriculum	Integrated Curriculum	Clerkship Length
2016	29	1 – 26	27	97%	21%	N/A	69%	4 – 8 weeks
2021	26	1 – 14	24	68%	23%	14%	64%	4 – 8 weeks

¹Represents number of judges with complete Angoff ratings. Four judges did not provide demographic information and are excluded from the data above.

The data shown below represent a compilation of the opinions of the medical school faculty who participated in each study. The results reported are on the Equated Percent Correct score scale. The study results are provided to assist you in setting fair and valid passing and honors standards for this examination.

Table 2 provides a summary of the results for passing scores from the Modified Angoff and Hofstee Compromise procedures. The recommended minimum passing score based on the 2021 Angoff results is a subject exam score of 56. This score is slightly below the acceptable range of minimum passing scores (57 to 68) computed from the 2021 Hofstee results. The recommended minimum passing score based on the 2021 Hofstee results is a subject exam score of 65.

Table 2 – Pediatrics Grading Guidelines for Passing (EPC Scores)

Standard Setting Study	Modified Angoff Recommended Passing Score	Hofstee Compromise Range of Acceptable Minimum Passing Scores	Hofstee Compromise Recommended Passing Score
2016	53	52 to 63	59
2021	56	57 to 68	65

Table 3 provides a summary of the Hofstee results for honors. The 2021 study results indicate that the minimum acceptable score for honors should fall between a score of 80 to 94.

Table 3 – Pediatrics Grading Guidelines for Honors (EPC Scores)

Standard Setting Study	Hofstee Compromise Range of Acceptable Minimum Honors Scores
2016	78 to 89
2021	80 to 94