

How Is The Passing Score Determined?

The NBCOT OTC® and OT-SC™ Certification Examinations are graded using the Angoff Procedure.

When using the Angoff procedure, a panel of subject-matter experts (Judges) examine the content of each item and predicts the proportion of minimally qualified candidates who will answer each item correctly. The testing company made recommendations regarding the type of judges to recruit for the meeting including key stakeholders and judges with broad expertise from across the country.

The panel of judges was gathered by the NBCOT from a pool of Certified Orthopaedic Technologists and are considered experts in their field. All panelists reported that they have a good working knowledge of what an entry-level Orthopaedic Technologist needs to know to become certified. The panel itself was made up of a diverse ethnic and geographical number of judges. The panel has a reported average of 9.18 years of experience.

The group first took part in a practice session in which the judges were asked to circle the correct answer to the question and then envision a room of 100 candidates who exactly met the description of the minimally qualified candidates. The judges were then asked to write down their prediction of how many of the 100 forementioned candidates would get the item (question) correct. The facilitator checked the work of all of the judges to verify they were proceeding correctly. The group was then asked to complete this process for the remainder of the items.

After the judges had finished the first round, the facilitator identified the items with a range greater than 35. Modified p-values were calculated from the data of candidates scoring plus or minus 5% from the cut score suggested during the first round.

The second round began with the facilitator reading the item ID, correct answer and the new p-value for each item. For items with a range less than 35, the judges were instructed to consider the new information and then make a final review of their initial response. If any of the judges wanted to change their response, they were free to do so. For items with a range greater than 35, the facilitator identified the high and low rating judges without revealing their predictions and asked them to explain to the group why they felt minimally qualified candidates would perform as they predicted. After listening to the logic, judges were allowed to make changes to their first round responses if desired.

Based on the Angoff ratings the suggested cut score for the NBCOT Orthopaedic Technologist-Surgery Certified is **108**.

Scores are determined by converting the number of questions answered correctly (i.e., each correct question is worth the same.). All candidates are administered a test consisting of 150 questions.

This group of OTC®s and OT-SC™s recommended to the NBCOT a standard of what a minimally competent entry-level Orthopaedic Technologist-Surgery Certified needs to know about the tested content to obtain a passing score. The decision regarding the passing score was made by the NBCOT and was applied to the test you will be taking through use of statistical procedures.

Passing candidates receive a score report with a brief message about achieving a **PASSING SCORE**; If you receive a score report that says **PASSING**, you have mastered the basic knowledge required to practice as an OT-SC™ at a level judged by the NBCOT to represent minimum competence.

Failing candidates also receive a score report with the number of questions you answered correctly. If you **FAIL** this exam you will be required to retake and pass the entire OT-SC™ examination if you wish to practice as an Orthopaedic Technologist-Surgery Certified (OT-SC™) and you must pay the full amount of the examination again. *There is no discount for re-taking the NBCOT examinations*

Your score tells you how far away from the passing score you are.