



Royal Australasian College
of Dental Surgeons
Let knowledge conquer disease

OMS SURGICAL SCIENCE AND TRAINING (SST) EXAMINATION POLICY

APRIL 2019

Document Information

Nature of Document:	Policy Document
Version:	3.0
Policy Area:	Education
Contact Officer:	Director of Education
Authorised:	Education Policy Board
Approved:	Council April 2019
Date Effective:	26 th April 2019
Date of Next Review:	April 2023
Policy Status:	Revised Policy
Related Policies:	Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy Special Consideration in Assessment Policy
Policy Replaces:	N/A

1. Purpose and scope

To prescribe the process followed by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) in setting and marking the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) Surgical Science and Training (SST) Examination.

2. Background

The OMS Surgical Science and Training (SST) Examination tests a candidate's basic surgical science knowledge in Anatomy, Pathology, Microbiology, Pharmacology and Physiology together with the level of practical experience accumulated in caring for the "Surgical Patient". The examination is designed to assess whether the candidate has the appropriate knowledge and experience to care for the surgical patient. A pass in the examination is a requirement for training.

The components of the SST Examination are collectively assessing knowledge and practical experience in applying basic sciences in the management of the surgical patient. It is required that competence is demonstrated in general medical assessment, the diagnosis of common peri-operative complications, and the initiation of appropriate investigations and treatment. It is expected that candidates will have a reasonable level of basic surgical skills and competence in clinical care.

Further detailed information regarding this examination can be found in the Handbook for Accredited Education and Training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Part D Section 1.

3. Policy Statement

1. Format of the Examination

The OMS SST Examination consists of 3 sections: a Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) examination, a Written examination comprising Short Answer Questions (SAQ) and a Clinical and Oral *Viva Voce* examination.

1.1. Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination

- Two (2) hours duration
- Tests basic surgical science knowledge
- The number and structure of questions will vary according to the individual subject
- The MCQ examination contains single answer, relationship-analysis and variable response questions
- The MCQ examination must be taken concurrently with the other components of the SST Examination

1.2. Short Answer Question (SAQ) Examination

- 50 minutes total duration
- Consists of five (5) short answer questions
- Each Question should be completed in 10 minutes
- The SAQ Examination must be taken concurrently with the other components of the SST Examination

1.3. *Clinical Examination*

- Five (5) stations of oral viva voce assessment
- Each oral viva voce lasts a total of 20 minutes
- Station categories are in:
 - a) Anatomy
 - b) Acute care
 - c) Ward scenario
 - d) Critical care
 - e) Surgical skills
- The tasks required include, but are not limited to, history taking and examination, demonstration of practical technical skills, the application of basic science knowledge, data acquisition and analysis.

2. Preparation of the Examination

- 2.1. All material for the written and clinical components of the examination are prepared by the diet's Examiners and mapped to the OMS Curriculum learning outcomes.
- 2.2. Examiners have a comprehensive knowledge of basic surgical science and practical patient care and have been selected by the Board of Studies (OMS).
- 2.3. A compulsory meeting of all Examiners is held on the day preceding the commencement of the clinical and oral viva voce examinations to standardise the format and components of the examination which is to follow. This includes review and finalisation of assessment rubrics.

3. Examination Passing Standards

To successfully pass the SST Examination, a candidate must achieve the passing standard in EACH of the following sections at the same examination diet:

- MCQ examination
- SAQ examination
- Critical care station
- Clinical examination - Oral Viva Voce examination

The examination passing standard for each of these examinations is set by the relevant examination review panel using formal standard setting methods. The 'passing standard' is reviewed at each examination series and may be adjusted with consideration to differences in the difficulty of examinations and to maintain the standards. The minimum score required to pass may be set by applying an error adjustment to the 'passing standard' score. For the clinical examinations, candidates must meet the passing standard in the Critical care station as well as meet the overall passing standard for the Clinical examination overall.

As all components of the SST Examination are blueprinted to curriculum modules and proficiency domains, minimum passing standards may also be set based on the aggregation of these. Therefore, candidates must also achieve the passing standard across modules and proficiencies.

4. Notification of Examination Results

- 4.1. The Court of Examiners assesses the marks of all candidates immediately following the last examination session. The Registrar (OMS) will then arrange for the notification of results to candidates within two (2) working days of completing the Examination according to College guidelines.

- 4.2. Candidates will receive their examination results by email.
- 4.3. Candidates who are unsuccessful will receive feedback on their results within 4 weeks following the release of examination results.
- 4.4. Candidates wishing to submit a request for consideration under the Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy may do so after the examination feedback has been received.