



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

2019 CEC® Certificant Bulletin

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Statistics for the ACF Certified Executive Chef® (CEC®) credential are issued annually:

- 75 chefs were certified at the CEC® level in 2019.
- As of 12/31/19, there were 3,056 chefs with the CEC® designation.
- 204 CEC® written exams were administered in 2019 with 38.7% passing and 61.3% failing. The standard deviations are acceptable, the standard errors of measurement are consistent and the reliability estimate exceeds minimum standards.
- In 2019, there were 111 CEC® practical exam administrations resulting in an 86.8% pass and 13.2% fail ratio.

Items of Note: Written exam scores for the CEC® Written Exam are given as a scaled score.

Cut Score Determination and Scaled Scores

The methodology to determine the cut score or passing point, used in this examination is a criterion-referenced approach called a modified Angoff Technique. The testing profession considers this technique to be one of the most defensible criterion-referenced methods available for setting passing points. It relies on the pooled judgments of content experts. For example, in this approach, a group of experts is asked to judge each item on the test. The criterion used to judge each item is formed into a question: "What is the probability that a 'minimally acceptable' candidate will answer this item correctly?" This question prompts the judges to consider a group of minimally acceptable candidates and what proportion of that group will answer each item correctly. The average of the proportions, or probabilities, is multiplied by the total number of items on the test.

The result then represents the "minimally acceptable" score. The final passing score for this examination is based on this pooled judgment and includes a statistical adjustment for testing error.

Understanding your ACF Written Exam Scaled Score

Assessment programs use different types of scaled scores. ACF uses a scaled score between 200–400 with 300 being the passing score.

What Are Scaled Scores?

Scaled scores provide a useful measuring tool for assessment programs and are particularly useful in providing a basis for long-term comparisons of examination results. Scaled scores are transformed raw scores that use a numerical procedure that involves the overall test mean, the standard deviation and the original raw score. For every possible raw score on a test form, there is a corresponding scaled score. When multiple forms of a test are used, or when results are compared from year to year, scaled scores are needed to adjust for possible differences in test forms.

Why Eliminate Raw Scores?

Scaled scores are intended to make scores more meaningful by defining a scale of measurement that is not tied to a particular form of a test. Scaled scores help resolve confusion among users of the score reports when there are changes in the testing program.

Written Exam Item Review

Written exam item statistics will be reviewed on an annual basis at a minimum and items replaced and new items are pretested based on psychometric review and review of the Written Exam Subcommittee. Items with a passing percentage under 30% or over 90%, or items with distractors selected “0” times will be reviewed by the Written Exam Subcommittee Chair and two other members of the Written Exam Subcommittee. Items may be replaced if deemed necessary or retained if determined valid. The Written Exam Subcommittee can, on its discretion, review test items and revise if there has been a change in standards listed in recommended reference materials.

Prepared by: ACF Certification Staff