



C M S A

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EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

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Cert Gastroenterology(SA) Surg Blueprint

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1. Overview

Three tracks are available:

- a. Hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery
- b. Colorectal surgery
- c. General surgical gastroenterology and upper gastrointestinal surgery

The detailed syllabus is available on the CMSA website and consisting of a core curriculum and the nominated track curriculum: [Cert Gastroenterology\(SA\) Surg Regulations](#).

2. Learning objectives

- a. To have a broad understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathology and management of general surgical gastro-enterological diseases.
- b. To learn anatomy and physiology applicable to the candidates chosen track which allows them to interpret investigations, perform surgical procedures and understand outcomes.
- c. To learn benign and malignant pathology relevant to their chosen track.
- d. To apply an evidence-based approach to clinical conditions common to their chosen track.
- e. To integrate and justify clinical information to develop a patient appropriate management plan, and clearly describe how they would execute their plan.
- f. Demonstrate a clear understanding of multi-disciplinary teams and each team member's role in specific disease management.
- g. To be able to cite seminal papers as well as significant studies relevant to their chosen track.

3. Level of competence

Candidates must be able to assess, investigate, discuss and justify their answers with respect to the modules of their chosen track's curriculum. There must be clear demonstration of extended thinking that confirms evaluation and management plan creation appropriate to a sub-specialist in their chosen track.

4. Examination format

The examination consists of one written examination and an oral examination should the candidate pass the written component. The content of the examinations will be derived from the modules defined in the syllabus: [Cert Gastroenterology\(SA\) Surg Regulations](#).

4.1 Written examination

The written examination consists of one paper of four equally weighted questions written over 3 hours. The first question is compulsory for all candidates regardless of chosen track and will be of a general surgical gastro-enterological nature. The remaining three questions have an A (Hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery) B (Colorectal surgery) and C (General surgical gastroenterology and upper gastrointestinal surgery) component of which only one of the components must be answered per question. A pass mark of 50% or more for the whole paper must be achieved for the candidate to be invited to the oral examinations

4.2 Oral examination

The oral examinations consists of three paper based clinical case and a viva.

Paper cases

The candidate will be given 60 minutes to assess three paper cases. The cases will be appropriate to the candidates chosen track, and each will examine a different disease pathology. Thereafter the candidate will have a 60 minute oral during which the paper cases will be examined.

Viva

The viva will take place over 40 minutes. At least three examiners will ask questions in line with the candidates chosen track and the applicable syllabus modules.

4.3 Examiners

Three examiners, from at least two institutions, who are certified Surgical gastro-enterologists will conduct the examination. The viva may be supervised by a moderator.

4.4 Pass mark

To pass the examination the candidate must achieve 50% or more for each oral component, namely both the clinical cases and viva. The final mark will be calculated by adding the written examination mark, the clinical cases and viva together and calculating a percentage mark.