

**The PAEA End of Curriculum™ Exam:  
Historical Statistics From 2020 to 2021**



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## Introduction

The PAEA End of Curriculum exam is an objective, standardized evaluation of a PA student’s medical knowledge as one component of their readiness for graduation. This 300-question exam was built using a blueprint and content area list developed by PA educators and national exam experts and is intended to be delivered in the final four months of the PA program.

The PAEA End of Curriculum exam utilizes scale scores to report students’ performance. The primary benefit to scale scores is that they allow all scores on all versions and forms of End of Curriculum to be comparable as they all use the same scale metric. The scale for the End of Curriculum exam is 1200 to 1800. The exam also went through a standard setting process. Standard setting is a critical component of nationally standardized educational testing. The process defines categorical scores that correspond to policy level descriptors. Standard setting of the End of Curriculum exam helps programs by indicating whether a student has limited, satisfactory, or advanced medical knowledge. The initial standard setting panel, consisting of 21 subject matter experts in the field of PA education, was convened in-person in November 2019. For the version published from January 6, 2020 to January 7, 2022 of the End of Curriculum Exam, the scaled score necessary to achieve Satisfactory Medical Knowledge was 1400 and the scaled score needed to achieve Advanced Medical Knowledge was set at 1525.

<b>Administration Dates</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Reliability</b>	<b>SEM</b>
1/6/2020 - 1/7/2022	1520.80	51.45	0.89	17.07

## **COVID-19 Pandemic Impact**

The PAEA End of Curriculum exam was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of remote proctors for the PAEA End of Curriculum exam is strictly prohibited. Due to this policy, the delivery of the End of Curriculum exam was halted from March 23, 2020 to May 27, 2020 to maintain the validity, reliability and security of the exam. When the exam was made available again on May 28, 2020, PAEA had modified the Exam Policies to require the Program Director complete a special Attestation affirming they would administer the End of Curriculum exam in person.