- *Does everyone take the same test?*

For each CCN examination a separate pool of items is maintained. This pool (called an *item bank*) is used to generate different versions of the examination (called a *test form*).

To ensure that the examinations are relevant, and to maintain test security, the CCN examination forms are updated on a regular basis. As a result, over time, candidates receive different sets of test items.

- *Are the test forms different?*

All test forms for an examination are built to a standardized test blueprint. The CPCS and CPMSM have different test blueprints. This test blueprint determines what candidates will be tested on, no matter which test form the candidate is given.

- *Is one form easier than another?*

CCN works hard to ensure that all test forms are comparable in difficulty. CCN does this to ensure that candidates who take different test forms on different dates are treated equally. However, each item on a test form differs in how easy or hard it is. As a result, some test forms turn out to be harder (or easier) than others. CCN takes into account these differences when setting the passing score for a test form.

- *What is a passing score?*

The passing score is the number of items candidates must answer correctly to pass the examination. Each test form has its own passing score depending on how hard or easy it is.

The passing score is established by the appropriate CCN Examination Committee using a criterion-referenced process. During this process, committee members discuss the minimum level of competency required to pass the examination.

- *What is a scaled score?*

A scaled score is a mathematical conversion of the number of items that a candidate correctly answered transformed so that there is a consistent scale used across all forms of the test.

This transformation is similar to converting from pounds to kilograms. The weight of the object has not changed, only the units being reported.

Each CCN program is on a different scale.

Program	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Passing Score
CPCS	300	500	400
CPMSM	200	700	450

- *Why use scaled scores?*

Since the passing standard and scale is always the same, scaled scores allow for direct comparisons of scores across different test forms. It is not appropriate or fair to compare raw scores of candidates who took test forms that were slightly different in how easy or hard they were.

Scaled scores make comparisons over time easier. It will not matter which test form a candidate took, the scale will remain constant. Using raw scores does not guarantee this because there may be differences in how hard or easy a test form is.

The use of scaled scores also matches the CCN's accreditation goals. Both the CPCS and CPMSM are accredited by a third-party agency for adherence to certification standards. These standards discourage the use of raw (and percent) scores. Scaled scores address the certification standard to provide clear, interpretable information.

As a result of these benefits many programs use scale scores, including the ACT® and SAT® examinations.

- **Why don't we just use the percent correct? Isn't that a scale?**

Percent correct scores are just another version of raw scores and thus do not resolve the issue of comparability of scores from different test forms. The best practice is to choose a scaled score that avoids confusion with other scores.

- **How do you get from a passing standard to a scaled passing score?**

For scale scores, the passing standard on any test form of the examination is always reported as the same scaled score. For example, the CCN CPCS is reported on a scale of 300 to 500, with the passing score always 400, no matter what test form was taken by a candidate.

- **Do scaled scores change who passes or fails?**

Scaled scores **DO NOT** affect individual candidate pass or fail decisions. The decision is always made by comparing the number of items answered correctly to the number of items required to pass the test form that was established using the criterion-referenced process.

Candidates who correctly answer more items than are required to pass the test form will obtain scaled scores that are between the scale's passing score and the maximum scaled score (e.g., 400 to 500 for the CPCS). Candidates who do not answer enough items to pass will obtain from the minimum to just below the scaled passing score (e.g., 300 to 399 for the CPCS).

- **Why are the scaled scores for the CPMSM and CPCS exam different?**

The CPCS and CPMSM examinations are on different scales to avoid inappropriate comparisons across the two programs and with other programs.

This means that a score on the CPMSM is **NOT** equivalent to a similar score on the CPCS. This differentiation is consistent with certification accreditation standards.

- **How do I interpret my performance? Does 300 mean I am close to passing [if the scaled passing score is 350]?**

The benefit of scaled scores is candidates will be able to compare their performance to other candidates.

CCN will provide information on how other test takers did on the examination. Candidates who are retaking the examination will also be able to make appropriate comparisons between different testing times.

- **What are domain scaled scores?**

Most organizations report domain scores on the same scale as the total scale score. This leads to confusion by candidates. In particular, candidates may average their domain scale scores and find that is not equivalent to their overall scale score. This is because each domain consists of different numbers of items and the mathematical translation for a domain results in substantial differences.

To avoid this confusion, CCN domain scores for each program are reported on a scale of 100 to 200.

- **How do I interpret the domain-level scores? I want to know my areas of strength/weakness and I don't know what 127 means [if the scale is 100 to 200].**

Candidates will be able to assess their strengths or weakness by comparing their scaled scores to other candidate data on their score report. This will allow for appropriate comparisons to see areas of strength or weakness.

Because different domains are weighted differently on the test forms (i.e., they have different numbers of questions), using scaled scores is even more important to allow for appropriate comparisons.

Example Score Report

ABC Certification Program **Examination**: ABC Foundations in Credentialing
Candidate ID: ABC12345 **Test Date**: 5 January 2011
Exam Results ID: 1234567

Ms. Test Taker

Congratulations, you have **passed** the examination.

Domain	Your Scores	Minimum qualifying score	Other Test Takers 2010	All
Management of Credentialing	160	-	150	148
Psychometrics	175	-	160	170
Candidate Support	150	-	155	152
TOTAL SCORE	**435**	**400**	**410**	**405**

Purpose of the test
The ABC Foundations in Credentialing is a 200-item multiple-choice examination desgined to assess whether the test taker has an understanding of the core knowledge and skills necessary for competent performance as a manager of credentialing programs. The examination score by itself is not indicative of future performance as a manager of credentialing programs.

The score scale
To provide consistency in reporting scores across different test forms, your score was converted to a common scale score ranging from 300 to 500. The minumum score required to pass the examination is 400. Since the performance domains have varying numbers of items, your total score is not the sum of your performance in each domain. You do not have to pass each domain to pass the examination.

How do you compare with other test takers?
To give you an idea of how you performed on the examination, average scores from other test takers have been provided in the table above. Specifically, average scores are shown for the previous year's test takers and for all test takers since the program began.

This is not a credentialing notice
This is a score report for the **ABC Foundations in Credentialing** examination. Passing this test does not mean you are credentialied. You must meet other requirements to be credentialed as a ABC Credentialing Manager. If you pass you will receive a separate credential certificate 2 to 4 weeks after you test.

Failing candidates
If you failed the examination please refer to the Candidate Handbook and the ABCs Website for study support and how to schedule a retake examination. You will be eligible to retake the exam after **March 6, 2011.** You will be notified of your credential status two to four weeks after you test.