

- **Does everyone take the same test?**

To maintain the validity, security and relevance of the EDAC examination, old, outdated, or poorly performing items are replaced with new items. Every time this process is performed, the result is a different version of the examination (called a *test form*). As a result, over time, candidates may receive different forms of the EDAC examination.

- **Could one form be easier than another?**

CHD works hard to ensure that all test forms are comparable in difficulty. CHD 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. CHD takes into account these differences when setting the passing score for a new 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 CHD 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.

Below is the score scale for the EDAC examination:

	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Passing Score
EDAC	200	800	650

- **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 adheres to “best practices” in the standardized testing industry. Testing guidelines discourage the use of raw (and percent) scores. In fact, most established testing programs use scaled 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 scaled scores, the passing standard on any test form of the examination is always reported as the same scaled score. For example, the EDAC examination is reported on a scale of 200 to 800, with the passing score always 650, 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., 650 to 800 for the EDAC exam). Candidates who do not answer enough items to pass will obtain from the minimum to just below the scaled passing score (e.g., 200 to 640 for the CPCS).