



About Your CFRE Exam Scores

CFRE International is committed to offering a written examination that is comprehensive, that tests current fundraising practices, and that is valid and reliable. To that end, CFRE International continuously reviews and revises the CFRE exam. New forms of the exam are released approximately every eighteen (18) months.

There are several series of reviews, checks and balances to be sure candidates are given the best and fairest exam possible. Several groups of currently certified fundraising professionals from around the world volunteer their time to work with CFRE International to assure a fair and credible exam.

There are occasions when, despite all the checks and reviews that are done, an individual test question performs differently in an actual testing situation than expected. This additional time provides the opportunity for those questions to be re-evaluated. If it appears that the question was misleading or had more than one correct answer, CFRE International may opt to allow more than one answer to be accepted as correct, or might score the question correct for everyone. This way, no candidate is unfairly penalized for a flaw in test construction.

CFRE International reports its scores as a **scaled score**. **Scaled scores for the CFRE exam range between 200 and 800, with 500 being the passing point.** 800 would represent a perfect score. The candidate's "raw score", or actual number of questions answered correctly, is converted to the scaled score. This statistical procedure provides a common scale for reviewing and reporting results.

All candidates will receive a score report that shows them the overall scaled score required to successfully pass the exam (500). The score report will then also provide the candidate with a breakdown, by content area, of their exam performance.

Candidates receiving a scaled score of 500 or greater will have successfully met the minimum for passing the exam. Those with a scaled score of 499 or less will not have met the minimum standard for passing the exam.

CFRE International uses a "criterion-referenced" exam model. As such, they may be different from "norm-referenced" exams that are typical of other exams you may have taken.



“Norm-referenced” exams are those that are graded “on a curve.” This means the candidates performance is evaluated in relationship to others taking the exam. **This is not the case with the CFRE Exam.** CFRE International does not pre-determine the number of candidates they wish to have pass the exam.

The passing point for the exam, a scaled score of 500, has been set in advance using a panel of currently certified individuals in the profession in each country where the exam is held. CFRE International’s Exam Committee works with these panels and its professional testing agency staff to apply the Modified Angoff Method for establishing the passing point. This is the most commonly used method for certification exams.

The passing point for the exam will not change from exam administration to administration. It will not change from exam to exam. Your score will not be dependent on any one else with whom you are testing.

If you have any questions about this process or about the scaled score, please feel free to contact our offices directly.