

NERC System Operator Certification Exam Announcement

April 16, 2020

The NERC System Operator Certification Program is publishing new cut scores for the NERC System Operator Certification Exams. New exams cut scores will begin June 1, 2020 at all PSI test centers. The new exams will include exam questions based on updated content outlines and the most current NERC Reliability Standards as possible.

The Personnel Certification Governance Committee along with the Exam Working Group, working with our Psychometrician have increased the passing scores for all exams. These passing scores were derived from a standard setting study that helped to facilitate the criterion-referenced nature of credentialing decisions (e.g., pass vs. fail). This process is known as the Angoff Method, the purpose of which is to relate the standard that is set (the pass score) to the expectations of performance for those who are considered to be minimally competent. As such, this process required a panel of subject matter experts (SMEs) to deliver an expected performance rating for each individual test item that is a reflection of their expectation of performance for those who are minimally competent. The selected passing scores were derived from these SME ratings in order to determine a valid passing score using an empirical approach.

The cut scores, as of June 1, 2020 are:

Exam Cut Scores June 1, 2020			
Examination Content Outline	Total Scored Questions	Current Cut Score	New Cut Score
Reliability Coordinator	120	89	92
Transmission Operator	100	74	76
Balancing, Interchange and Transmission Operator	120	89	92
Balancing and Interchange Operator	100	74	76

The [System Operator Program Manual](#) and the [Exams Resource Materials for NERC System Operator Certification Examinations](#) has been updated to reflect the new exam cut scores as of June 1, 2020.