The 2015 Passing points (Cut Scores) for Clinical and Anatomic Pathology Phase II Examinations and Explanation of the Equating Process

The Passing Points (Cut Scores) for the sections of the Clinical and Anatomic Pathology Examinations the 2015 Phase II Certifying Examination will be:

**CLINICAL PATHOLOGY**
- Biochemistry 62%
- Cytology & Surgical Pathology 60%
- Hematology 62%

**ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY**
- Veterinary Pathology 61%
- Microscopic Pathology 62%
- Gross Pathology 61%

These are the same cut score used for the 2014 examination based on a standard study performed prior to that examination by a panel of ACVP diplomates. These scores will be used as the cut score for all subsequent Phase 2 examinations until a new standard setting study is conducted.

In order to insure that examinations are of comparable difficulty regardless of the year in which they were administered, an equating process is used to compare the difficulty of examinations given in different years and to adjust (scale) scores to reflect any differences in difficulty. These adjusted scores are used to determine if candidates pass or fail the examination based on the pre-established cut score,
which are above for the 2015 Phase II Examination. Candidates who fail the examination will receive their equated score rather than their raw score.

For a more a detailed explanation of the standard setting and equating processes we direct you the following article posted on the ACVP website: “Determining ACVP Examination Cut Scores” at http://www.acvp.org/residents/Exam.cfm.