

**Incorporated by an Act, Chapter 77 (12 Elizabeth II), of
the Parliament of Canada, December 21, 1963
REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXAMINATIONS**

**adopted by the First Board, February 18, 1964
(complete revision February 3, 1990)
(amended to February 23, 2004)
(amended March, 2009)
(amended Feb 25, 2017)
(amended March 25, 2023)
(amended March 23, 2024)
(amended June 10, 2026)**

1.0 NAME AND PURPOSE

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada [PEBC] - *Le Bureau des examinateurs en pharmacie du Canada* [BEPC], hereinafter referred to as the Board, issues a Certificate of Qualification.

2.0 EXAMINATIONS

2.1 Pharmacists

Examinations for pharmacists set under the authority of the Board shall consist of comprehensive and objective examinations as follows:

- 2.1.1 The Pharmacist Evaluating Examination is designed to evaluate the candidate's knowledge in the areas of biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacy practice, and behavioural, social and administrative pharmacy sciences.
- 2.1.2 The Pharmacist Qualifying Examination (Part I MCQ and Part II OSCE) is designed to evaluate the candidate's competence (knowledge, skills and abilities) to practise pharmacy as a pharmacist at an entry level¹ and ability to apply current knowledge and skills to practice situations.

2.2 Pharmacy Technicians

Examinations / assessments for pharmacy technicians set under the authority of the Board shall consist of comprehensive and objective examinations as follows:

¹ based on *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice* (NAPRA)

- 2.2.1 The Pharmacy Technician International Evaluation (Portfolio Assessment component) is designed to evaluate the candidate's foundations of competence to determine eligibility of the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination.
- 2.2.2 The Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination [Part I (MCQ) and Part II (OSPE)] is designed to evaluate the candidate's competence (knowledge, skills and abilities) to practice pharmacy as a regulated pharmacy technician at an entry level² and ability to apply current knowledge and skills to practice situations.

3.0 EXAMINATION QUALIFICATIONS

3.1 Pharmacists

- 3.1.1 The minimum qualification required for admission into the Pharmacist Qualifying Examination is:

3.1.1.1 possession of a first professional degree in pharmacy from:

(a) a constituent faculty, college or school of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada, providing such degree was obtained on or before December 31, 1993; or

(b) a program accredited by The Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs³; or

(c) a program accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education or

3.1.1.2 the successful completion of the Pharmacist Evaluating Examination; or

3.1.1.3 a diploma in pharmacy from a college or equivalent institution in Canada acceptable to the Board, obtained prior to January 1, 1987, and a licence or authority to engage in the practice of pharmacy from any participating pharmacy regulatory authority as defined in section 2.1.8 of the By-law and continuous registration as a pharmacist in Canada for a minimum of 10 years; or

3.1.1.4 a first professional degree in pharmacy from a non-Canadian university or an equivalent institution granting a degree acceptable to the Board and a licence or authority to engage in the practice of pharmacy from any participating pharmacy

² based on *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice* (NAPRA)

³ excludes programs with CCAPP international accreditation designation.

regulatory authority as defined in section 2.1.8 of the By-law and continuous registration as a pharmacist in Canada for a minimum of 10 years; or

3.1.1.5 a first professional degree in pharmacy completed outside of Canada and the U.S. from an institution that has a program comparable to programs qualifying under Section 3.1.1.1, on condition that the candidate successfully completes Part I (MCQ) prior to being granted admission to Part II (OSCE).

3.1.2 The minimum qualification required for admission into the Pharmacist Evaluating Examination is possession of either:

3.1.2.1 a first professional degree in pharmacy or a post-professional degree in pharmacy that is deemed to be equivalent; or

3.1.2.2 a diploma in pharmacy from a college or equivalent institution in Canada acceptable to the Board, obtained prior to January 1, 1987, and a licence or authority to engage in the practice of pharmacy from any participating pharmacy regulatory authority as defined in section 2.1.8 of the By-law.

3.2 Pharmacy Technicians

3.2.1 The minimum qualification required for admission into the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination is:

3.2.1.1 completion of a pharmacy technician program accredited by The Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs⁴; or

3.2.1.2 successful standing and status, gained up to and including December 31, 2008, for the Ontario College of Pharmacists pharmacy technician certification examination (completed under controlled secure administration conditions); or

3.2.1.3 successful standing and status, gained up to and including December 31, 2007, for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board of Alberta pharmacy technician certification examination (completed under controlled secure administration conditions); or

3.2.1.4 other equivalent(s) recognized by PEBC; or

3.2.1.5 the successful completion of a PEBC Pharmacy Technician Evaluating Examination; or

⁴ excludes programs with CCAPP international accreditation designation

- 3.2.1.6 the successful completion of the PEBC Pharmacy Technician International Evaluation.
- 3.2.2 The minimum qualification required for admission into the Pharmacy Technician Evaluating Examination is provision of acceptable evidence of completion of a minimum of 2000 hours of work in the past 36 months in the field of pharmacy.

4.0 EXAMINERS

Qualifying and Evaluating examinations shall be set by examiners appointed by the Board in accordance with the By-laws.

5.0 EXAMINATION RULES

- 5.1 The Board shall set the rules for examinations, including the requirements for successful completion of the Qualifying and Evaluating Examinations.
- 5.2 Candidates that have successfully completed a qualifying program as set out in Section 3.1 or 3.2 will be eligible for up to four attempts at either part of the Qualifying Examination.
- 5.3 Except for circumstances relating to Section 5.4, candidates that have been unsuccessful in four previous attempts will not be permitted to register for the Qualifying Examination.
- 5.4 Candidates that successfully complete a subsequent pharmacy educational program that qualifies under Section 3.1 or 3.2. will be eligible for four additional attempts at either part of the Qualifying Examination.
- 5.5 Candidates are limited to a lifetime maximum of eight attempts at either part of the Qualifying Examination, irrespective of the completion of any additional qualifying programs.

6.0 LOCATIONS AND TIMES

- 6.1 The Qualifying Examinations (Part I and Part II) shall be held according to a schedule and in such locations as the Board shall decide from time to time.
- 6.2 The Evaluating Examinations shall be held according to a schedule and in such locations as the Board shall decide from time to time.

- 6.3 The closing dates for receipt of applications for the qualifying and evaluating examinations shall be set by the Board from time to time.
- 6.4 Qualifying and evaluating examination dates and locations shall be established at least three months in advance of the examination.
- 6.5 The Board reserves the right to cancel the conduct of qualifying or evaluating examinations at an announced location in the event that an insufficient number of candidates apply to take the examinations at that site, provided that the cancellation is made known to those affected at least three weeks in advance of the examination date. To avoid cancellations, the candidates may be given the opportunity to cover the costs of maintaining the examination at the site.

7.0 IDENTITY

- 7.1 For admittance to the examinations, a candidate shall present identification to the Presiding Officer / Test Centre Administrator / Chief Administrator as approved by the Board.
- 7.2 Candidate answer forms, assessor scoring forms, and examination papers/booklets shall be identified only by their assigned code number.
- 7.3 Any answers/responses not contained on the answer form or assessor scoring form shall not be considered for evaluation. The answer or scoring form provided will be the only record for examination evaluation.

8.0 IRREGULARITIES

Irregularities include, but are not limited to, suspected breaches of PEBC's policies including those referenced in PEBC's Candidate Rules of Conduct and other policies.

- 8.1 Irregularities, confirmed, or suspected breaches, may occur at any point of the candidate's engagement, interactions or access to services provided by PEBC.
 - 8.1.1 Irregularities may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing misleading, false, fraudulent, inaccurate or suspicious documents; or
 - b. Misleading, false, fraudulent, inaccurate or suspicious personal / educational / professional / employment history or other information provided by the candidate or submitted on their behalf; or

- c. Failing to correct, advise or inform PEBC if any aspect of their personal or professional information used in the certification process is inaccurately recorded; or
- d. Suspicious candidate behaviour observed during test-taking that diverges from normal test-taking behaviour; or
- e. Situations as described in the Rules of Conduct.

8.1.2 At any point in the certification process, PEBC reserves the right to investigation or take action in the event that an irregularity occurred or is suspected of occurring, as set out in Section 21.6 and 21.7 of the By-law.

8.2 In-Person Examinations

PEBC has established policies for written and computer-based examinations and performance examinations, which are found in the “*Candidate Rules of Conduct – Written and Computer-based Examinations, Performance Examinations*” and any other approved policy document.

In case of an irregularity committed by a candidate during the written, paper and pencil, Qualifying Examination (Part I) or Evaluating Examination, the Presiding Officer shall remove the candidate's examination paper and any items to be submitted as evidence. The candidate may be provided with a new paper and be allowed to proceed with the examination during the balance of the normal examination period. In computer-based testing, the candidate will cease testing and be removed from the exam by the Test Centre Administrator, while the irregularity is investigated. The candidate may then be allowed to continue with the examination.

In either test delivery model, the candidate may be removed from the examination by the Presiding Officer or Test Centre Administrator in consultation with the Registrar-Treasurer or designate. The candidate shall be informed at the time of the incident that the candidate may respond in writing, to the incident.

In case of an irregularity committed by a candidate during the performance component of the Qualifying Examination (Part II), the candidate shall be similarly informed and upon investigation may be allowed to proceed with the examination. The candidate may be removed from the examination by the Chief Administrator in consultation with the Registrar-Treasurer or designate.

Should a candidate be removed from the examination, in such case, the candidate shall be sequestered until the end of the examination session. No candidate shall be dismissed until the end of the examination session.

Candidates who have been removed from an examination will forfeit the results which will be counted as an unsuccessful attempt and may be subject to further sanctions.

A written report of any irregularity during an examination will be filed by the Presiding Officer / Test Centre Administrator / Chief Administrator and the candidate advised that a report will be written.

The candidate may provide an explanation in writing to the PEBC within 7 days of the examination.

At the conclusion of the examination, the Presiding Officer / Test Centre Administrator / Chief Administrator shall submit a written report in full to the Registrar-Treasurer describing the circumstances, supported by any evidence collected, for consideration by the Registrar-Treasurer. On the basis of this evidence, the Registrar-Treasurer shall decide respecting the acceptability or otherwise of the candidate answer forms or the performance examination score or assessor scoring forms. The Registrar-Treasurer shall decide whether further sanctions shall be applied to the candidate.

8.3 Other Examination Formats

PEBC has established policies related to irregularities occurring in other examination formats (such as but not limited to those outlined in PEBC's "*Candidate Rules of Conduct – Computer-based Examinations (MCQ) using Remote Proctoring*") or another approved policy document.

8.4 Investigations

PEBC may begin an investigation at any point in the certification process, if an irregularity is suspected.

8.4.1 PEBC will collect and examine all information, documents, and records (paper-based or digital) related to the candidate's interactions with PEBC, including information submitted by the candidate or on the candidate's behalf, or examination results (complete or incomplete).

8.4.2 PEBC may obtain information or records from third parties.

8.4.3 Candidates are required to participate in PEBC's investigation if requested. Failure to participate in a timely manner may result in consequences determined by PEBC.

8.4.4 During or after an investigation, PEBC will not disclose its observations, concerns, evidence, investigation findings, nor its processes or techniques related to investigating potential irregularities.

8.5 Withholding or Invalidation of Results

PEBC may decide in its sole discretion to withhold or invalidate the candidate's results on the suspicion of misconduct or a confirmed breach of conduct.

8.5.1 Examination results may be withheld indefinitely, pending the outcomes of a PEBC investigation.

8.5.1.1 Withheld results may be released at a later date, or the results may be invalidated at PEBC's sole discretion.

8.5.1.2 Invalidation of examination results may occur in the absence of a confirmed breach, specific evidence, or a determination that a breach of the rules of conduct has in fact occurred.

8.5.1.3 Invalidation of results means a determination by PEBC that a candidate's examination results are not valid and will not be recognized for any purpose.

8.5.1.4 Invalidation of results will result in a nullification or voiding of the results from that attempt, and will not count toward the candidate's maximum number of permitted attempts.

8.5.1.5 PEBC may invalidate the candidate's results before or after the results have been released.

8.5.2 In the event that PEBC invalidates a candidate's results:

8.5.2.1 The candidate may be required to re-take the examination in a specified format or location, including in-person administration, regardless of the format of the original examination.

8.5.2.2 The registration fees associated with a required re-examination may be waived by PEBC.

8.5.2.3 Candidates are responsible for costs associated with attending an examination, including travel, unless otherwise determined by PEBC in exceptional circumstances.

8.5.2.4 The candidate will be eligible to appeal PEBC's decision, at their own expense, subject to PEBC's appeals process.

8.5.3 In any other circumstances or in the event of a confirmed breach of conduct, the Registrar-Treasurer (CEO) will decide the outcomes or consequences in accordance with PEBC's policies and/or Candidate Rules of Conduct.

9.0 ANSWER / ASSESSOR SCORING FORMS

All candidate answer forms and assessor scoring forms shall be retained by the Registrar-Treasurer for a period of at least one year after the applicable examination session for successful candidates, and [similar] records of failing candidates shall be retained until such time the candidate is successful.

The content, methodology, standards, or assessment criteria of any examination are not subject to review [or appeal] by failing candidates or their agents. On written request and payment of

the appropriate fee, the candidate and/or a duly appointed representative may, at the PEBC office, view the candidate answer forms or assessor scoring forms, excluding examination content, during the rescoring process.

10.0 CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

A designated confidentiality agreement must be agreed to and signed by the following:

- i. members of the Board of Directors,
- ii. members of the Panels of Examiners, including Qualifying Examinations Part II working groups and committees,
- iii. Presiding Officers,
- iv. Qualifying Examinations Part II examiners,
- v. standardized patients/participants,
- vi. examination centre assessment staff,
- vii. examination candidates (includes signing of application certification statements, candidate's agreement) and
- viii. individuals deemed appropriate by the Board.