



The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

Le Bureau des examinateurs en pharmacie du Canada

New 2026 Pharmacist Qualifying Examination Blueprint

A new blueprint for the Pharmacist Qualifying Examination has been approved for implementation with the May 2026 sitting of the exam. The exam blueprint is based on the [Professional Competencies for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice in Canada](#) which was updated in late 2024 by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA).

With the updated professional competencies, the new Qualifying Examination blueprint will have five competency domains, with the first domain divided into two parts, for a **total of six competency areas** to reflect the professional knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and judgments required for safe and ethical practice by entry-level pharmacists.

These competencies will continue to be assessed through relevant questions/cases [Part I (MCQ)] and practice-based scenarios that simulate practice [Part II (OSCE)]. The new blueprint provides an approximate percentage of overall exam content for each of the six competency areas. In addition, percentages are also provided for questions within each competency area to be tested in each exam modality i.e. [Part I (MCQ)] and [Part II (OSCE)].

Please note that there will be no change to the total number of questions and stations for either Part of the exam, and no change to the length of the exam or its duration when the new blueprint is introduced in May 2026.

As of May 2026, the **Pharmacist Qualifying Examination Blueprint** is as follows:

Competencies ¹	Total Exam	Part I – MCQ ²	Part II – OSCE ²
1A. Providing Care: Clinical Care	45%	50%	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain relevant patient information (1.1) Assess the patient's health status and unique needs, goals, and preferences, in partnership with the patient (1.2) Develop a plan for the patient's care in collaboration with the patient and their circle of care (1.3) Implement a plan for the patient's care in collaboration with the patient and their circle of care (1.4) Monitor the patient and collaborate with the patient and their circle of care to revise the plan for the patient's care (1.5) 			
1B. Providing Care: Distribution	14%	20%	8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and process prescriptions (1.6) Prepare products and preparations for dispensing (1.7) Verify the accuracy and quality of dispensed products and preparations (1.8) Release verified products and preparations (1.9) Manage pharmacy inventory to ensure safe and efficient distribution (1.10) 			
2. Knowledge and Expertise	9%	11%	7%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use professional judgment to make evidence-informed decisions in the best interests of the patient (2.2) 			
3. Communication and Collaboration	16%	4%	28%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use effective communication skills (3.1) Work in partnership with the patient (3.2) Collaborate with pharmacy colleagues, other health professionals and other involved parties (3.3) Document pharmacy care and services and maintain pharmacy records (3.4) 			
4. Leadership and Stewardship	3%	3%	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote public and community health and wellness (4.2) 			
5. Professionalism	13%	12%	14%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to relevant legislative and regulatory requirements (5.1) Apply ethical principles to practice (5.2) Promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in the practice environment (5.4) Promote a culture of patient safety and continuous quality improvement (5.5) 			
Total	100%	100%	100%

¹blueprint numbering is based on the NAPRA professional competencies document; key competencies deemed not testable by PEBC are excluded from the blueprint; ²% are approximate values