



RP. 18 Practice Assessment of Competence at Entry (PACE)

Approved by Council: March 21, 2023

Reviewed and Updated: November 18, 2025

Resources: [Regulated Health Professions Act](#)
[Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Regulations](#)

PEI College of Pharmacy policies, together with legislation, practice directives, standards and guidelines outline the practice expectations of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the province.

Policies use “must” to indicate an action that is mandatory for a pharmacy professional. Policies use “may” to indicate that the registrant may use professional discretion.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to further define the Practice Experience at Entry (PACE), which is approved as a practice-based registration requirement with the PEI College of Pharmacy (PEICP).

Application

This policy is applicable to internationally trained applicants for registration as a pharmacist in the General Class.

Introduction

The PACE program is the practice-based assessment of a pharmacist applicant’s readiness to practice safely and independently as a pharmacist performing the reserved activities of the profession. The PACE Assessment Criteria is based on the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authority (NAPRA) Entry-to-Practice Competencies for Pharmacists.

Policy

Eligibility

Candidates for PACE must meet the requirements for registration as a provisional pharmacist before attempting PACE. Internationally educated pharmacists who have successfully completed the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Qualifying examinations, Part 1



and 2 on their first attempt, may apply directly to PACE. Internationally educated pharmacists who have unsuccessfully attempted the PEBC Qualifying examinations, Part 1 and 2 on their first attempt are required to complete a period of 280 hours of practice experience and must successfully complete both parts of the PEBC Qualifying Examinations to be eligible to apply for PACE.

Process

A candidate is assigned to a practice site location where a PEICP appointed PACE Assessor is available. To ensure an impartial assessment, every applicant and assessor must declare and provide details about any actual or perceived conflict of interest or appearance of bias during the PACE application process.

All PACE candidates must complete the Orientation and Assessment phases. The outcome of the initial assessment will determine if they must continue in the PACE process.

Orientation

The orientation is one week (35 hours) for all candidates. During this phase, the candidate has an orientation to PACE and the practice site, and time to observe the workflow and processes to familiarize themselves with these before engaging in a practice assessment. No pharmacy practice training is provided. This week of orientation may not be extended to ensure that all candidates have the same exposure to their PACE practice site.

Assessment

The assessment occurs over 70 hours, on either a two-week full time or three-week part-time basis. During this period, the candidate engages in practice in the scope of the profession to demonstrate their competence. The candidate must document practice opportunities that demonstrate all competency elements on the assessment tool. The assessor must observe the candidate whenever they are engaged in practice and review documentation. At the end of the assessment period, the assessor completes the assessment tool and submits it to the PEICP.

No pharmacy practice training and no performance-related feedback is provided to the candidate. The 70-hour assessment may not be extended to ensure that all candidates have the same period to demonstrate their competency to their assessor.



A candidate who has not successfully completed PACE will be provided with a performance profile and must continue in the PACE process until they have met this registration requirement.

Outcome

After the assessor submits the assessment tool to the PEICP, a standardized scoring rubric will be applied to the ratings in the assessment tool to determine if the candidate has either passed or failed PACE.

A candidate who has successfully completed PACE will have met the PEICP's practice-based registration requirement and be allowed to move forward in their registration process. Registration as a pharmacist must be completed within two years of a successful PACE outcome.

A candidate who has not successfully completed PACE will be provided with a performance profile and must apply for reassessment in the PACE process, until they have met this registration requirement.

Development

To be eligible for reassessment, the unsuccessful PACE candidate must prepare a self-directed learning action plan to be completed over a period of 280 hours under the supervision of a preceptor. The candidate must maintain their registration as a provisional pharmacist during any period of practice experience.