



OPTOMETRY EXAMINING  
BOARD OF CANADA

BUREAU DES EXAMINATEURS  
EN OPTOMÉTRIE DU CANADA

Optometry Examining Board of Canada

# Summary Report 2016-17



**OUR VISION:** Be the recognized leader in  
competence assessments for  
optometry in Canada



MESSAGE FROM  
OUR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



2016-17 ADMINISTRATION RESULTS



ASSESSING COMPETENCY  
WITH CONFIDENCE



## Report Purpose and Use

The annual exam report provides OEBC members and stakeholders, including the public, with information about the performance of the OEBC exam. The reporting period is October 1 to September 30.

Optometry regulators rely on the OEBC exam for the purpose of registration, i.e. that individuals who have passed the OEBC exam have met the minimum required competence for registration to practice. This report including exam reliability statistics provides assurance to the regulatory bodies that they may rely on the OEBC exam for the purpose intended. This report is presented to OEBC members and published on the OEBC website annually.

NB: Examination statistics in this report are approved by Martek Assessments Ltd. and OEBC's principal psychometrician A. Marini, PhD.



## What is OEBC?

The Optometry Examining Board of Canada (also called “OEBC”) is the national examining body for optometry incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1995 as “Canadian Examiners in Optometry.” Its members are the ten provincial regulatory bodies of optometry in Canada who elect the board of directors of OEBC. The board governs the corporation and the CEO manages the operations.

OEBC’s vision is to be the recognized leader in competence assessments for Optometry in Canada. OEBC’s mission is to create and administer a legally valid and defensible examination to assess competence in the practice of optometry in Canada. OEBC’s values are a commitment to trust, integrity, transparency, engagement and responsibility. OEBC’s exam services and policies are described at [oebc.ca](http://oebc.ca).

Send communication inquiries to [exams@oebc.ca](mailto:exams@oebc.ca).



## A Message from our Chief Executive Officer

At OEBC, our mission is to create and administer a legally valid and defensible examination to assess competence in the practice of Optometry in Canada. We have been busy this year, making several changes or enhancements at OEBC and its exam services, as we continue to implement OEBC's 5-year strategic plan.

### New corporate name

A corporate name change from Canadian Examiners in Optometry to Optometry Examining Board of Canada was approved by the members in January and came into effect in March 2017. Our new name better signals the corporation's national purpose and identity.

### New exam names

The exam is known now as the OEBC exam with its two parts known as OEBC written exam and OEBC OSCE. The company name changed mid-year and business was conducted under "CEO" until this time. All information in this report refers to OEBC.

### Transitioning from the CACO

In October 2016 OEBC offered the final administration of the Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry (CACO). OEBC administered the CACO one final time in May 2017 for retakes only. The CACO has been the entry exam since 2011, when it replaced the Canadian Standards Assessment in Optometry (CSAO).

**"Our mission is to create and administer a legally valid and defensible examination to assess competence in the practice of Optometry in Canada"**



**TAMI HYNES**  
Chief Executive Officer

## OEBC exam launch

In May 2017, OEBC launched the OEBC exam with a written exam and a practical exam (Objective Structured Clinical Exam, “OSCE”). OEBC updated the exam to reflect current optometry practice and to align with Canadian testing best practice, both competency-based assessment and adoption of the OSCE method for the practical exam. The exam assesses entry-level competencies in the OEBC exam blueprint with content and weightings derived directly from OEBC’s *National Competency Profile (May 2015)* (“NCP”). The NCP is published at [oebc.ca](http://oebc.ca)

## Competency article accepted

The Canadian Journal of Optometry has accepted an article describing the process that took place to develop the OEBC’s National Competency Profile for Entry-Level Optometry May 2015. Publication is expected in 2018.

## Online registration is here

OEBC introduced an online registration portal in order to make exam registration easier and to continue our organization’s efforts to automate manual processing. Online registration launched in June 2017 and accommodates all five eligibility paths in the Exam Eligibility & Retake policy. In May 2017, an announcement about the change, reason for the change, steps for candidates to follow and deadlines was posted online and sent to accredited optometry programs (Canada, US). Stakeholders are invited to refer to [oebc.ca](http://oebc.ca) for future updates including implementation of online results reporting for exam candidates.

“Online registration launched in June 2017 accommodates all five eligibility paths in the Exam Eligibility & Retake policy.”

“Through my involvement I was able to enjoy daily practice at the office more as it kept me very current on practice standards.”

— D. Lu, OD

Learn more about volunteer qualifications, training and continuing education credits [here](#).

## Updated Policies

Exam policies provide guidance and information to candidates for fairness and transparency. In June, OEBC published a new policy “Administration Dates, Location & Frequency” that gives information about why and how exam administration dates are set. In addition, OEBC updated the following policies and documents:

- Appeals policy – administrative updates
- CACO Eligibility & Reassessment Transitional Candidates – clarification for those attempting the OEBC exam in fall 2017 having previously attempted the CACO
- Publication of Results – the registration form now allows the OEBC office to verify a candidate’s pass/fail to FORAC, the Federation of Optometry Regulatory Authorities of Canada
- Fail report - OEBC provides report to candidates who have not passed. The report reflects the new exam design and gives performance information for the practice areas in the blueprint.

OEBC continues to strive to set Canadian testing best practice standards that reflect current optometry practice. When we reach those goals, we are able to support each candidate with transparency and fairness.



Tami Hynes  
Chief Executive Officer

“OEBC published a new policy that gives information about why and how exam administration dates are set.”

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OEBC exam policies are available in English and French at [oebc.ca](http://oebc.ca) under “Exam Policies.”

## What Has Changed in This Year's Report?

- There are two annual exam reports this year, one for the CACO and one for the OEBC Exam. The CACO report aggregates performance data for fall 2016 and spring 2017 reassessments and the OEBC Exam report aggregates performance data for fall 2016 CACO written and spring 2017 OEBC OSCE as well as the spring 2017 OEBC Exam (OSCE and written).
- This report is for the OEBC Exam. It provides overall pass/fail performance and added aggregate performance statistics not previously available. OEBC returns to one annual exam report in 2017-18. OEBC continues to publish annual reports for the Canadian optometry education programs.



“The opportunity to meet and discuss with colleagues keeps me up to date in my optometric knowledge.”  
— G. Raby, OD

## 2016-17 Exam Administration Results

### 2016-17 OEBC Exam Delivery

In 2016-17, OEBC completed a total of 8 administrations in three locations.

OEBC delivered 3 administrations in Waterloo and another 2 administrations in Montreal. CACO skills administrations were held at the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Sciences and the École d'optométrie de l'Université de Montréal.

- October 2016 CACO (written, skills) in Montreal
- October 2016 CACO (written components only) in Waterloo
- May 2017 CACO (written, skills) in Waterloo

In May 2017, OEBC delivered the OEBC Exam in Hamilton and Montreal with the written exam administration and OSCE administration in Hamilton and the OEBC written exam administration in Montreal. In Hamilton, the OEBC OSCE is available in English and French and the OEBC written exam is available in English and bilingual. In Montreal, the OEBC written exam is available in French.

- May 2017 OEBC Exam (OSCE, written) in Hamilton
- May 2017 OEBC Written Exam in Montreal

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The total pass rate amalgamates Canadian, US and internationally-educated candidate performance and reflects the diversity of the subgroups.



## 2016-17 Exam Performance Highlights

### Candidates challenging the OEBC

In total, 255 candidates participated in the 2016-2017 administration cycle. OEBC saw 183 complete (attempting both Written and OSCE component) first time candidates for the initial implementation of the OEBC written examination and OSCE. As this was the first administration of the OEBC, there were no reassessment candidates from previous administration cycles. An additional 72 candidates attempted the final administration cycle of the CACO and are reported on in a separate document.

### Pass rates

The OEBC 2016-2017 Administration Scorecard provides pass rates by candidate subgroup and by attempt as well as a total pass rate. This year, the total pass rate was 84.7% which was marginally lower than the total pass rate of 86.8% seen last year in the final administration cycle of the CACO. It is important to note, however, that the total pass rate for the current year consists only of first attempt candidates. That is, no unsuccessful candidates have yet had the opportunity to re-attempt the OEBC exam.





## First attempt pass rates

The first attempt pass rate was comparable at 84.7% versus 82.2% last year. Pass rates for first attempt candidates increased for the Canadian subgroup by almost 3.8% to 93.5% and decreased for the U.S. subgroup by 3.9% to 75.6%.

At the same time, first attempt pass rates for internationally-educated candidates increased by 14.7% to 76.9% up from 62.2%. It should be noted, however, that the number of internationally-educated candidates attempting the OEBC was significantly smaller, 13, as compared to 37 internationally-educated candidates who made a first attempt on 2015-2016 CACO.

Note that the Five-Year Candidate Numbers Trend contains data for one administration only as there is only one set of data available. Subsequent data over next four years will be included as it becomes available.

## OSCE and Written— Group performance across practice areas

*The following reflects the final 2 charts.*

Reflective of the new competency framework of the OEBC examination, candidate performance is reported for both the Written examination and OSCE across the relevant practice areas. For the OSCE, 6 of the 9 practice areas were assessed. For the Written exam, all 9 practice areas were assessed.

Please note that each of the practice areas are weighted and therefore contain varying numbers of items. The percentages indicated reflect the proportion of total available items achieved by the various groups.

Pass rates for first attempt candidates increased for the Canadian subgroup by almost 3.8%

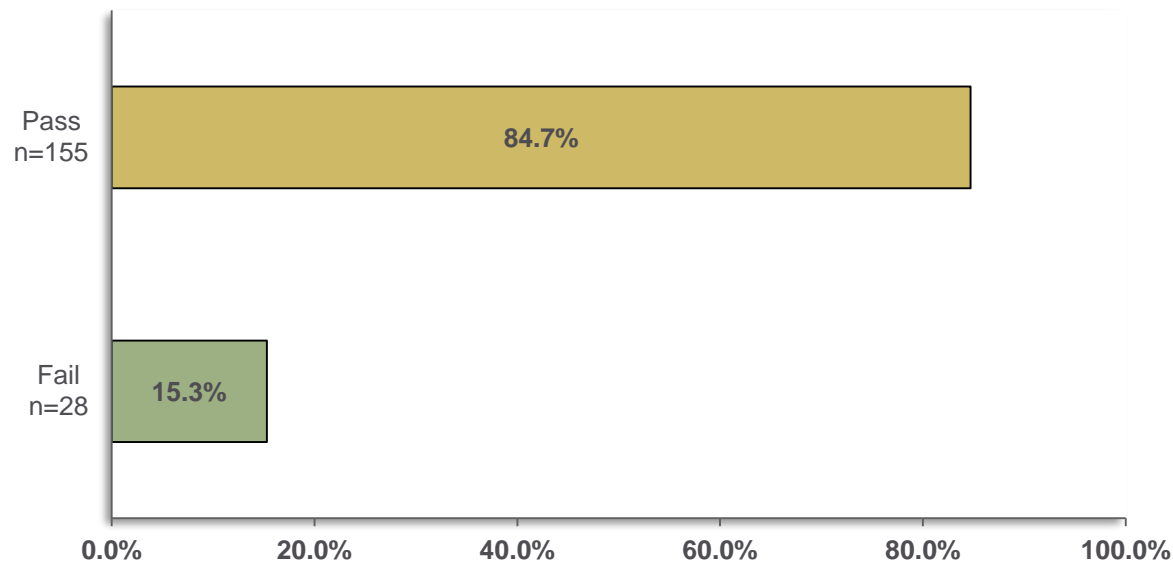
## OEBC Administrations Scorecard— 2016-17

	Canadian				US				International				<b>Total Pass Rate (All groups in All attempts)</b>
	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Total CDN	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Total US	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Total INT	
Pass Rate	93.5%	N/A	N/A	93.5%	75.6%	N/A	N/A	75.6%	76.9%	N/A	N/A	76.9%	84.7%
Candidate Totals	86/92	0	0	86/92	59/78	0	0	59/78	10/13	0	0	10/13	155/183

*For the purposes of interpretation, note that the results of this report are a reflection of the status of a candidate at the end of this year's administration cycle (fall and spring). Therefore the report reflects a "candidate lifecycle", however a candidate's lifecycle can extend beyond one administration cycle (year). Third attempt candidates are always from a prior administration cycle. Please note that as this is the first administration of the new OEBC Examination all candidates were first attempt candidates.*

A pass is conferred on a **candidate** when he/she meets or exceeds the minimum performance level for each of the OEBC's components.

## Total Pass/Fail Rates for All Candidates



*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

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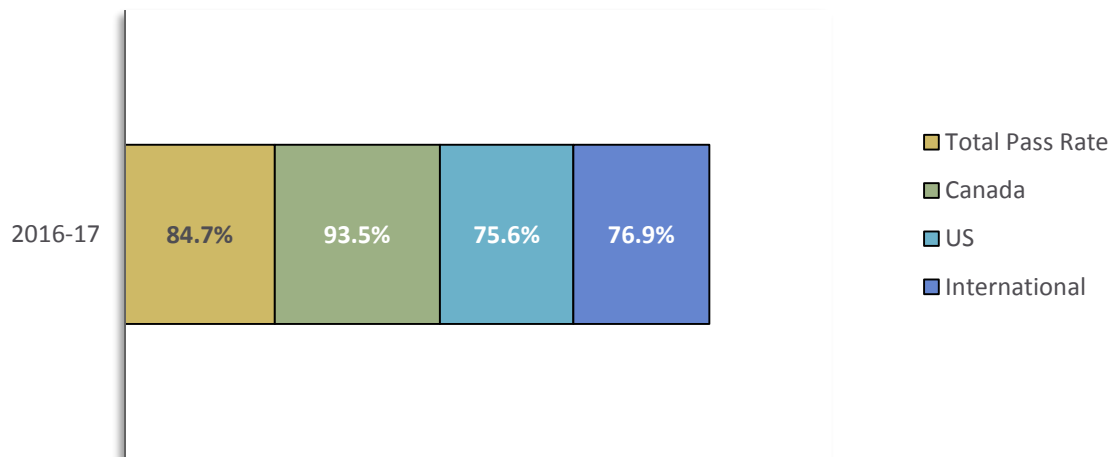
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## Candidate Performance— Five Year Pass Rate\*

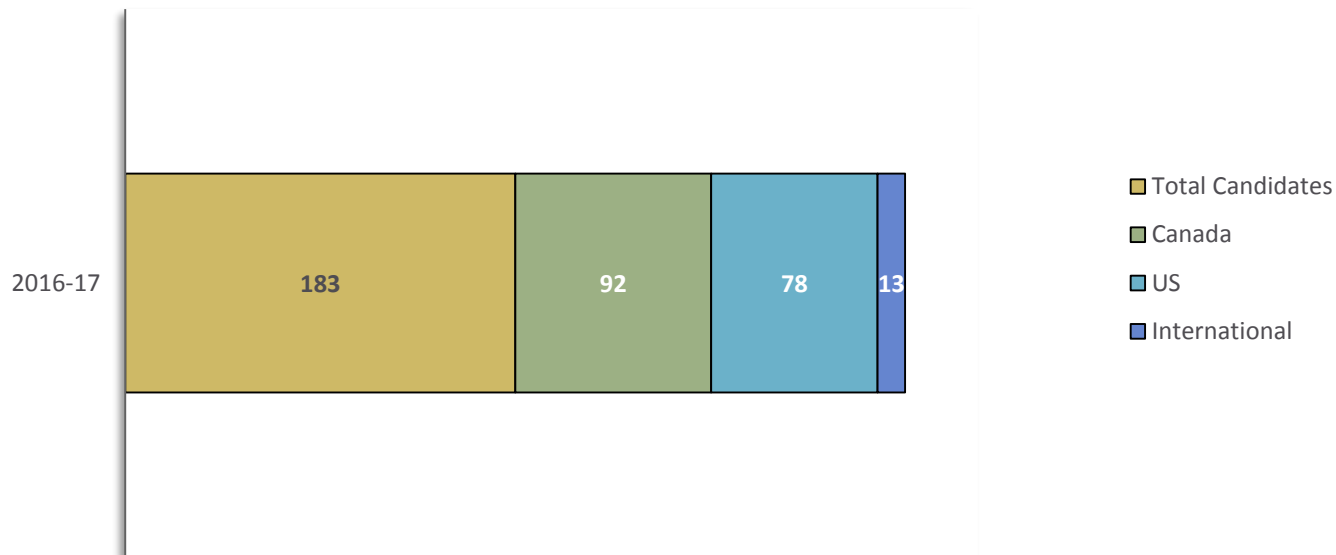


“I found the workshop  
a very rewarding  
experience that  
allowed me to have a  
say in ensuring that the  
questions reflected  
current clinical  
experience.”  
— T. Wilbee, OD

*\*Given that this is the first administration of the new OEBC Exam (OSCE and Written) there is only one set of results available. Subsequent performance over the next four years will be included as it becomes available.*

*The data in the table presents pass rates collapsed across the three subgroups (Canadian-educated, US-educated and Internationally-educated) which make up the overall candidate pool. Given the diversity within and across the candidates, performance level for each of the three main subgroups is also reported.*

## Five Year Candidate Numbers Trend\*



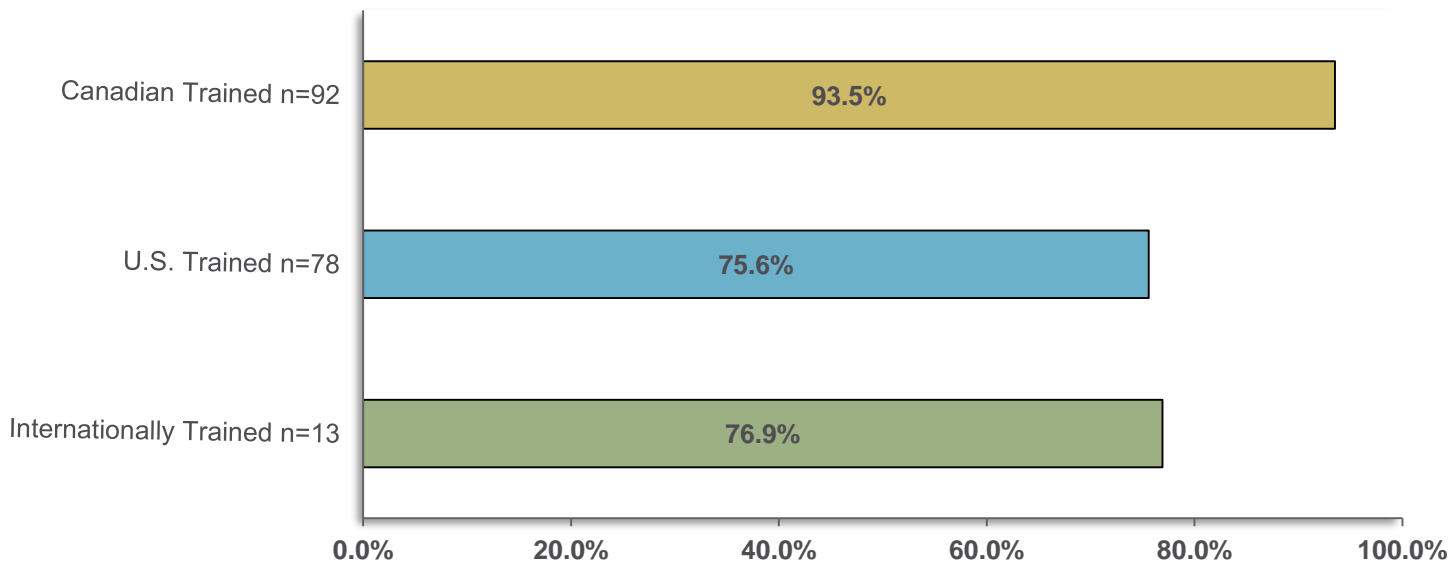
“I was able to remind myself of specific skills and guidelines - how to do everything by the book again!”

— K. Lam, OD

*\*Given that this is the first administration of the new OEBC Exam (OSCE and Written) there is only one set of data available. Subsequent data over next four years will be included as it becomes available.*

*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

## Total Pass Rate by Group

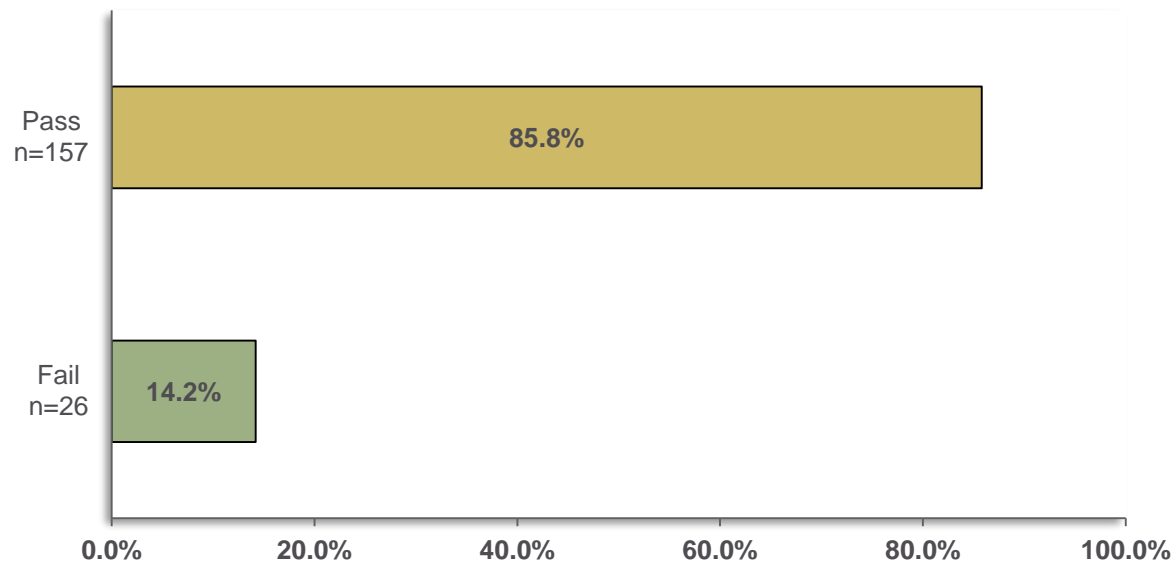


*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

“Optometrists should get involved in the exam because it's our profession and we need to make sure that it remains a profession with educational currency.”

— T. McNab, OD

## Total Pass/Fail OSCE for All Candidates



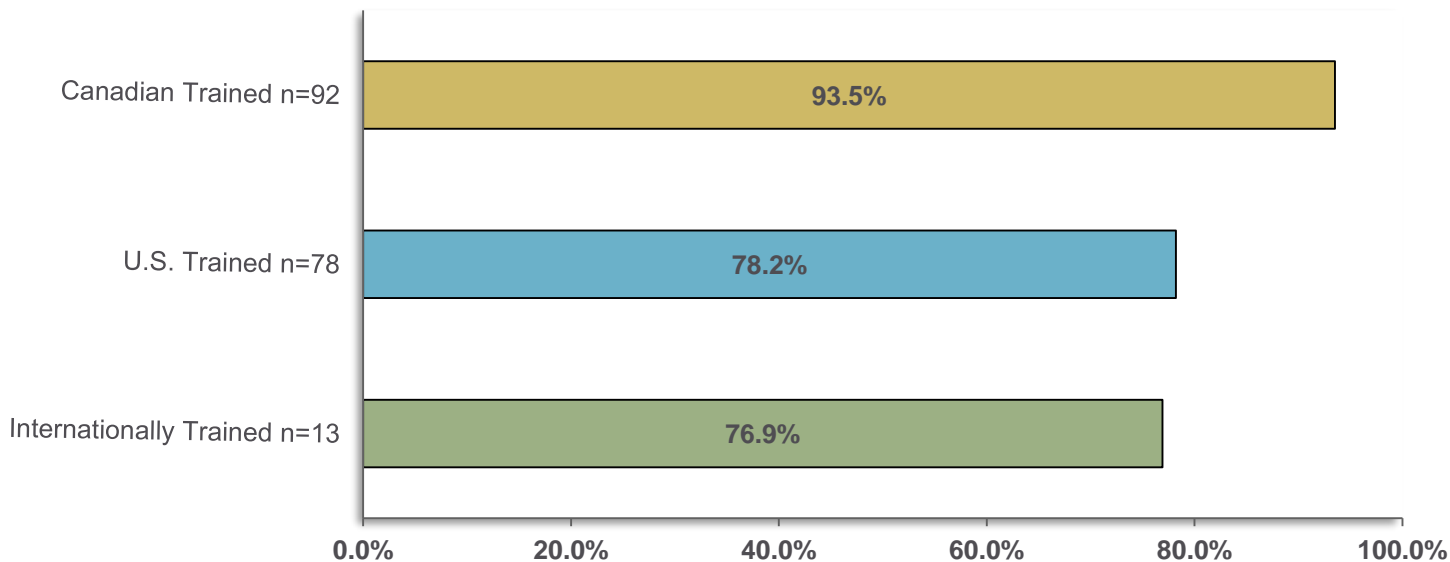
*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

“The new exam equips students for day to day practice.”

— S. Brooks, OD



## OSCE Pass Rate— by Group

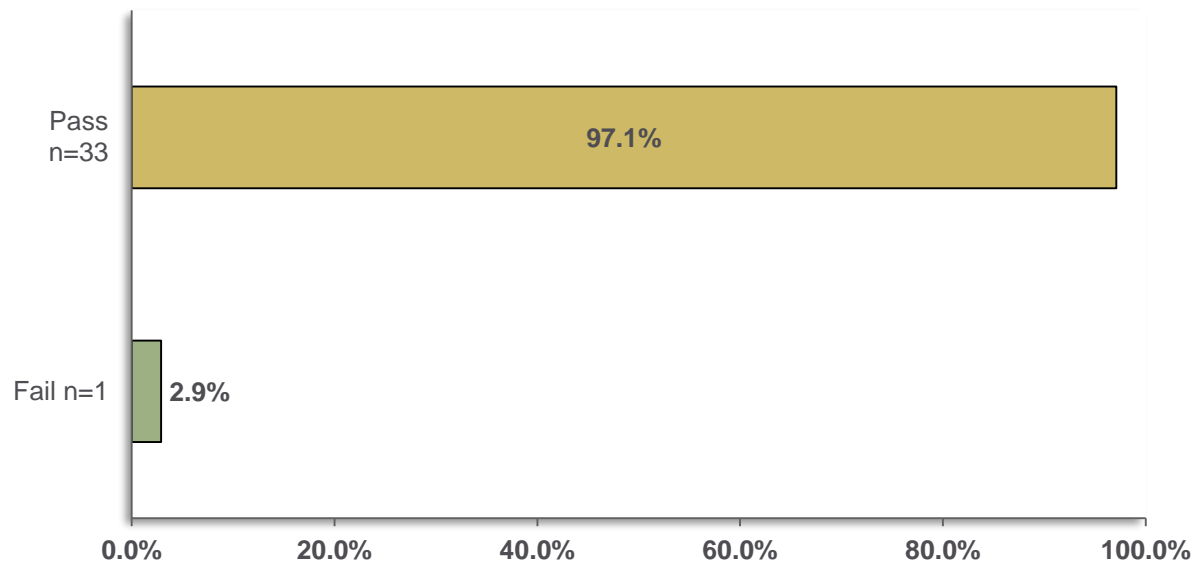


*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

“I can see the importance of communication and participate in changes that advance our profession forward”  
— D. Monea, OD



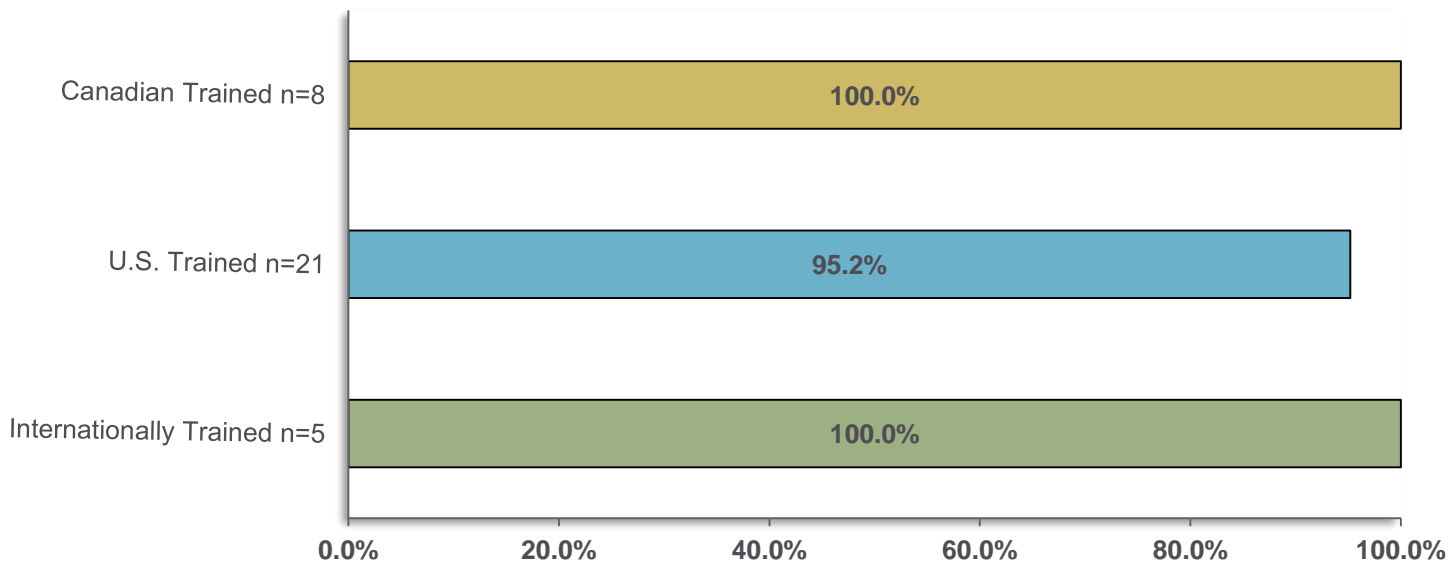
## Written Total Pass/Fail



*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

“My involvement in clinical assessment has allowed me to review my own clinical techniques as needed. [the exam] helps to maintain the standards for professional competence in the public eye”  
— D. Lu, OD

## Written Pass Rate— by Group



*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

“Participating has helped me to improve my technical and communication skills and this reflects positively in my practice.”  
— G. Raby, OD

## OSCE and Written– Group Performance Across Practice Areas

Reflective of the new competency framework of the OEBC examination, candidate performance is reported for both the Written examination and OSCE across the relevant practice areas.

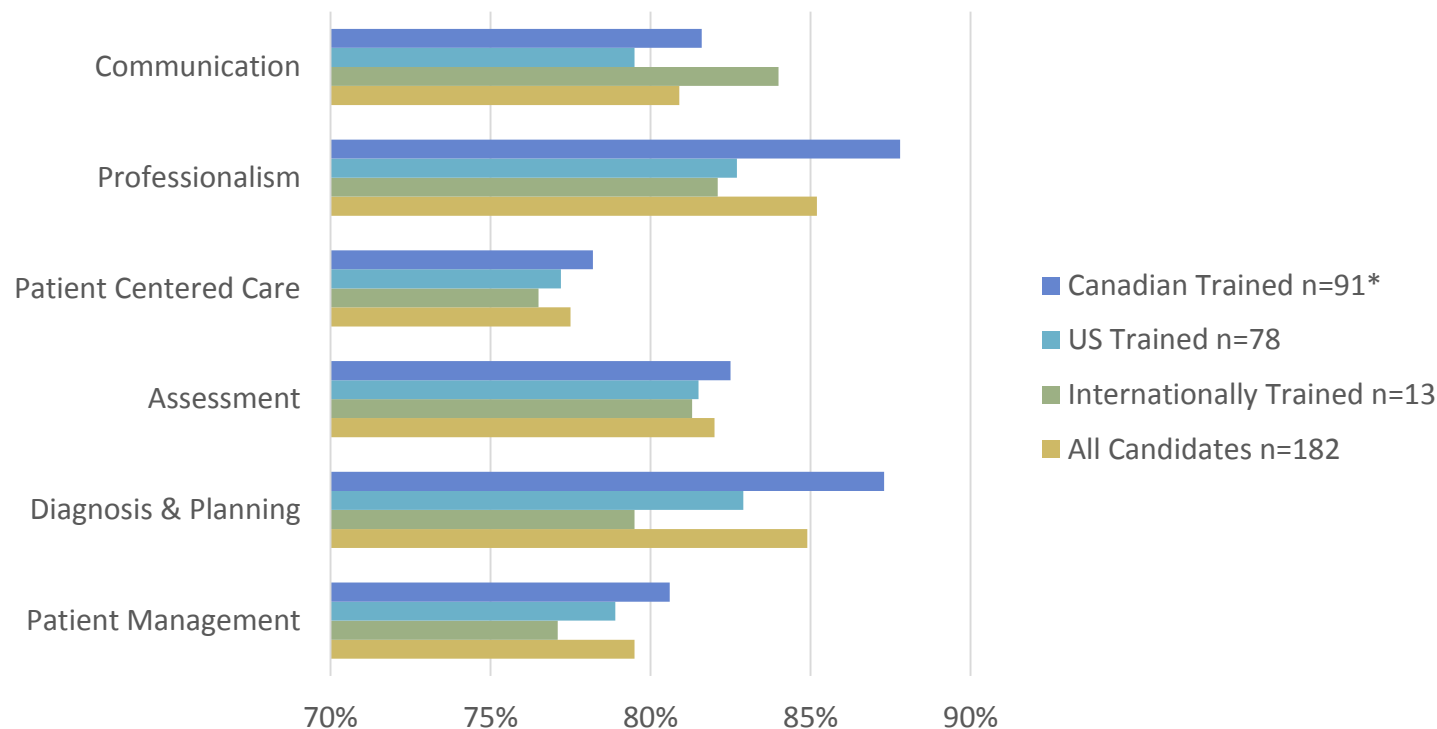
For the OSCE, 6 of the 9 practice areas were assessed. As the *OSCE Group Performance Across Practice Areas* chart indicates, Canadian trained candidates scored the highest of all groups in 5 of the 6 practice areas. For all candidates, the performance was strongest in the practice areas of Professionalism, and Diagnosis & Planning, and weakest for Patient Centered Care.

For the Written exam, all 9 practice areas were assessed. As the *Written Group Performance Across Practice Areas* chart indicates, Canadian trained candidates scored the highest of all groups in 8 of the 9 practice areas. For all candidates, the performance was strongest in the practice areas of Communication, Professionalism, and Diagnosis & Planning, and weakest for Scholarship.

Please note that each of the practice areas are weighted and therefore contain varying numbers of items, and the percentages indicated reflect the proportion of total available items achieved by the various groups.



## OSCE: Group Performance Across Practice Areas

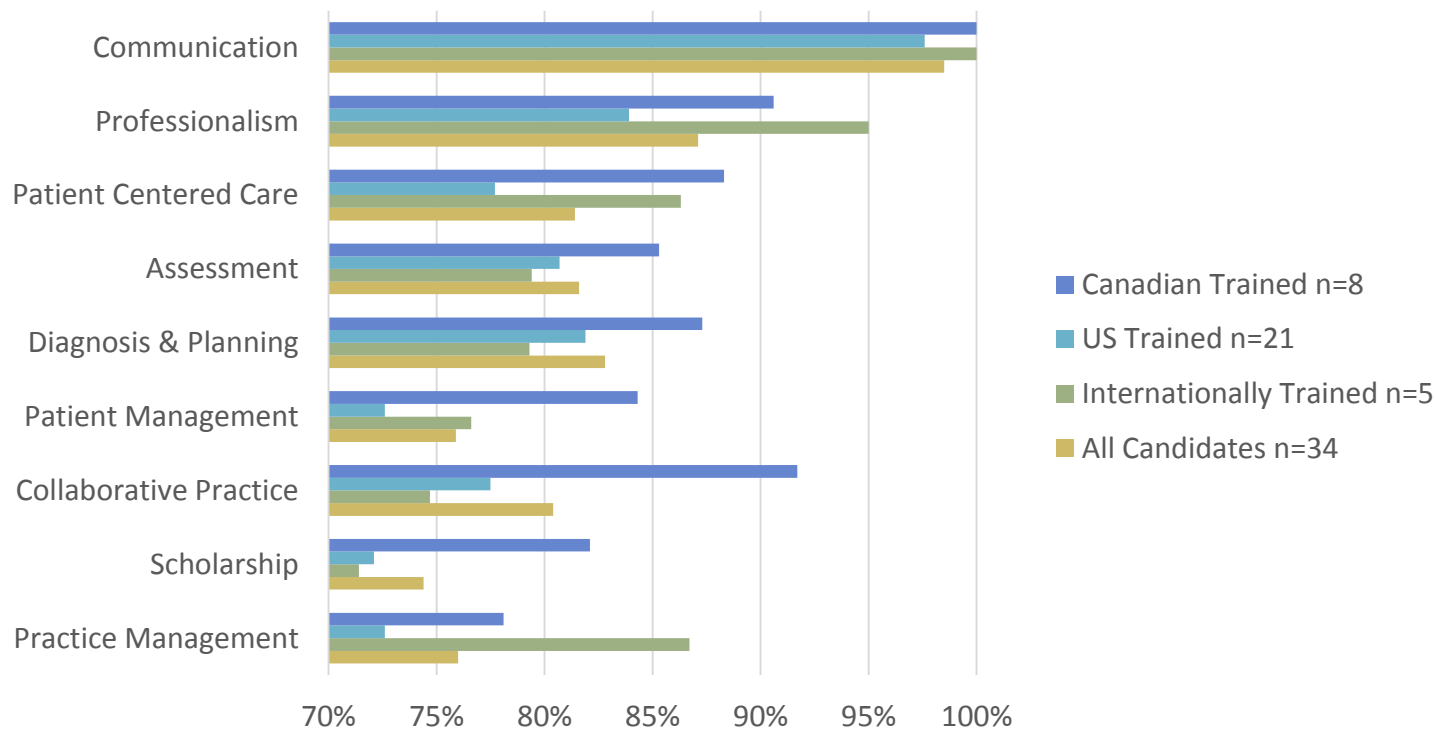


For all candidates, the performance was strongest in the practice areas of Communication, Professionalism, and Diagnosis & Planning

*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

*\* To address an accommodation request, 1 Canadian candidate experienced an alternative examination schedule and therefore could not be included in this chart.*

## Written: Group Performance Across Practice Areas



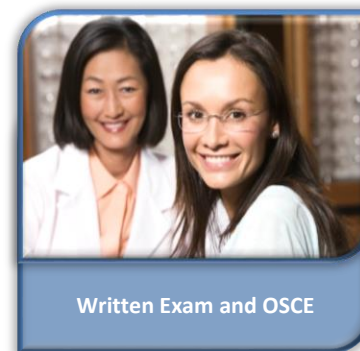
*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*





## The Entry-to-Practice Exam

The new OEBC Written Exam and OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Exam). The new exam tests whether candidates can demonstrate the entry-level competencies the profession has determined are required to enter the practice of optometry in Canada.



Sets the 92 competencies, grouped into nine areas of practice, optometrists require for safe, effective and ethical practise when entering the profession. The competency profile was:

- Developed by a group of optometrists in 2014
- Validated through a national survey of optometrists in 2015
- Approved by OEBC's board of directors in 2015

Ensures all candidates have equal opportunity to demonstrate they have the competencies necessary to practise optometry safely and effectively. The blueprint:

- Outlines the exam structure
- Identifies 87 competencies the Written exam or OSCE stations may test
- Includes the weighting for each area of practice

Tests if a candidate can demonstrate the competencies the profession has determined are required to enter the practice of optometry.

- Written Exam – one-day, paper exam comprised of 62 cases
- OSCE – 3.5-hour practical exam comprised of 16 stations that emphasize clinical reasoning and professional judgement.
- Employs Standardized Patients

## Understanding the OEBC Exam

The OEBC exam (Written exam and OSCE) is a competency-based exam testing integrated skills and knowledge grounded in optometric competencies. Optometrists across Canada participated in a survey in 2015 to establish the competencies. **The National Competency Profile for Entry-Level Optometry (2015)** is the result of this survey, and outlines the competencies required for the practice of optometry.

Exam	Assesses	Competency assessed through...	To pass candidate must...
Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• Patient Centered Care</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Diagnosis &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Patient Management</li> <li>• Collaborative Practice</li> <li>• Scholarship</li> <li>• Practice Management</li> </ul>	A multiple-choice written exam based on 62 comprehensive cases with four test items per case.	
OSCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• Patient Centered Care</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Diagnosis &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Patient Management</li> <li>• Collaborative Practice</li> <li>• Scholarship</li> <li>• Practice Management</li> </ul>	An Objective Structure Clinical Exam (OSCE) with 16 stations; 11 stations are interactive stations with standardized patients; the remaining 5 stations are non-interactive.	Meet or exceed the minimum level of performance as determined by members of the profession using the <b>Angoff cut-score setting method</b> .

The OSCE and Written examination are based on the exam blueprint available at [www.oebc.ca](http://www.oebc.ca). The Written and OSCE blueprints list the practice areas and their weightings; each practice area has a list of “competencies.” A competency is the ability to perform a practice task with a specified level of proficiency.



## Exam Reliability by Component – May 2017

	Administration May 2017	
Component	Alpha	K <sup>2</sup> (Livingston's Coefficient Kappa)
Written	.86	<b>.96</b>
OSCE Administration 1	.66	<b>.83</b>
OSCE Administration 2	.63	<b>.78</b>

The Livingston coefficients in this table meet and exceed the generally expected level of .70 which demonstrates the reliability of our test measures.

Find out more about interpreting the numbers [here](#).

## Item Analysis and Scoring Changes– 2016-17

Exam Administration	Items Deleted from Scoring	Reason for Change
Written	May 2017 - Five of 248 items or 2.1%	Items are deleted if they fail to meet psychometric criteria. This may include items that have performance levels within acceptable difficulty levels or items failing to discriminate positively.
OSCE Administration Day 1	May 2017 – One of 16 stations or 6%	
OSCE Administration Day 2	May 2017 – One of 16 stations or 6% in addition, one sub-element of one non-interactive case was also deleted	

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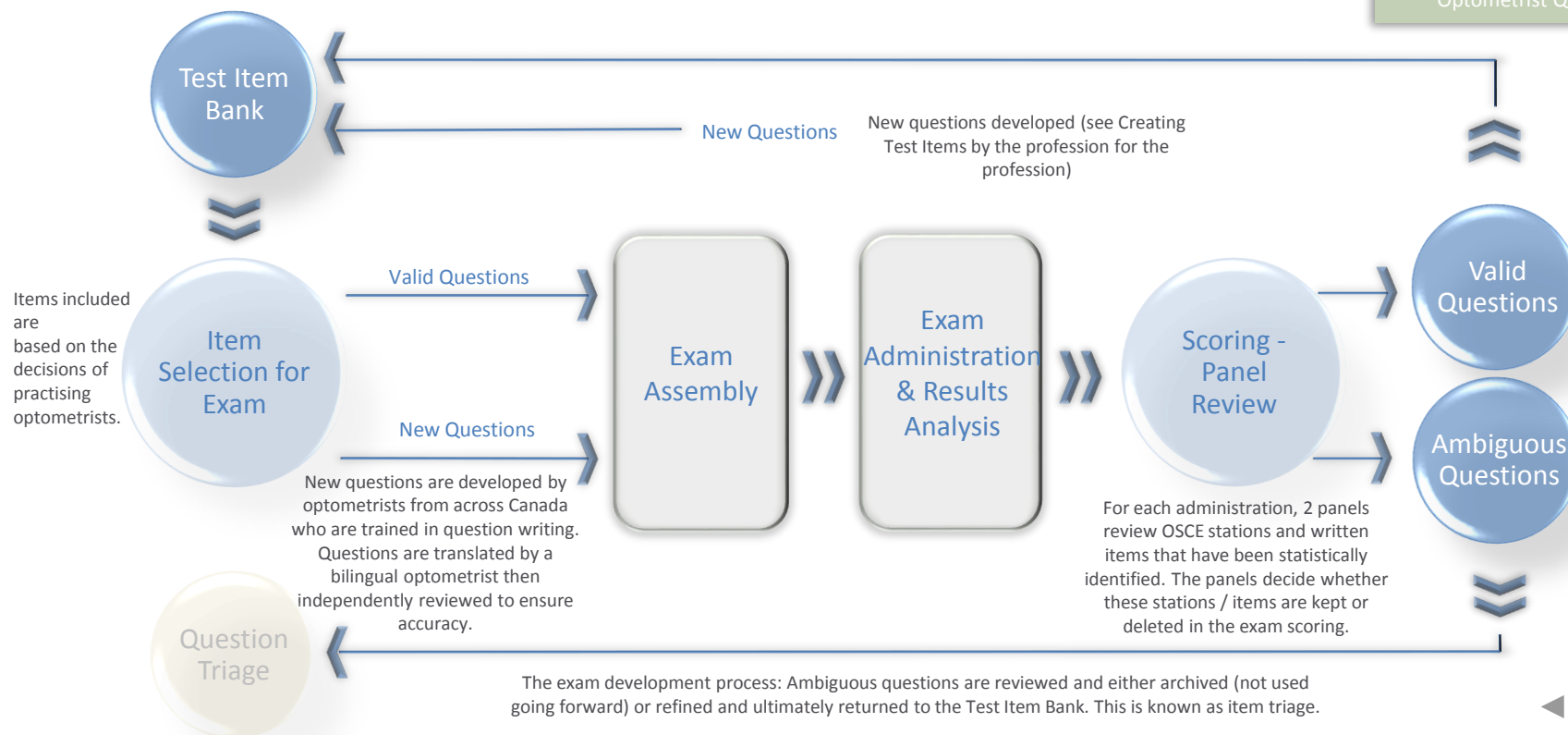
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Following each exam administration, OEBC analyses items to ensure they perform in the anticipated manner.

Learn more about the process [here](#).

## Exam Development Process: Choosing and Using Test Items



## Exam Development Process: Creating Test Items

The OEBC exam is based on an exam blueprint that is derived from the National Competency Profile. We create new items for the written exam and OSCE. To create these items, our writers draw from the OEBC exam blueprint.

### Exam Blueprint

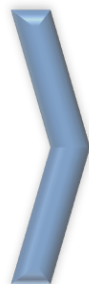
The OEBC exam blueprint provides the foundation of the OEBC Written exam and OSCE.

#### OEBC Written exam

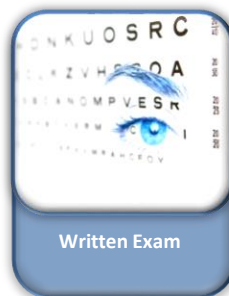
- 62 cases, 4 multiple choice questions per case

#### OSCE

- 16 stations



### Exam Question Areas



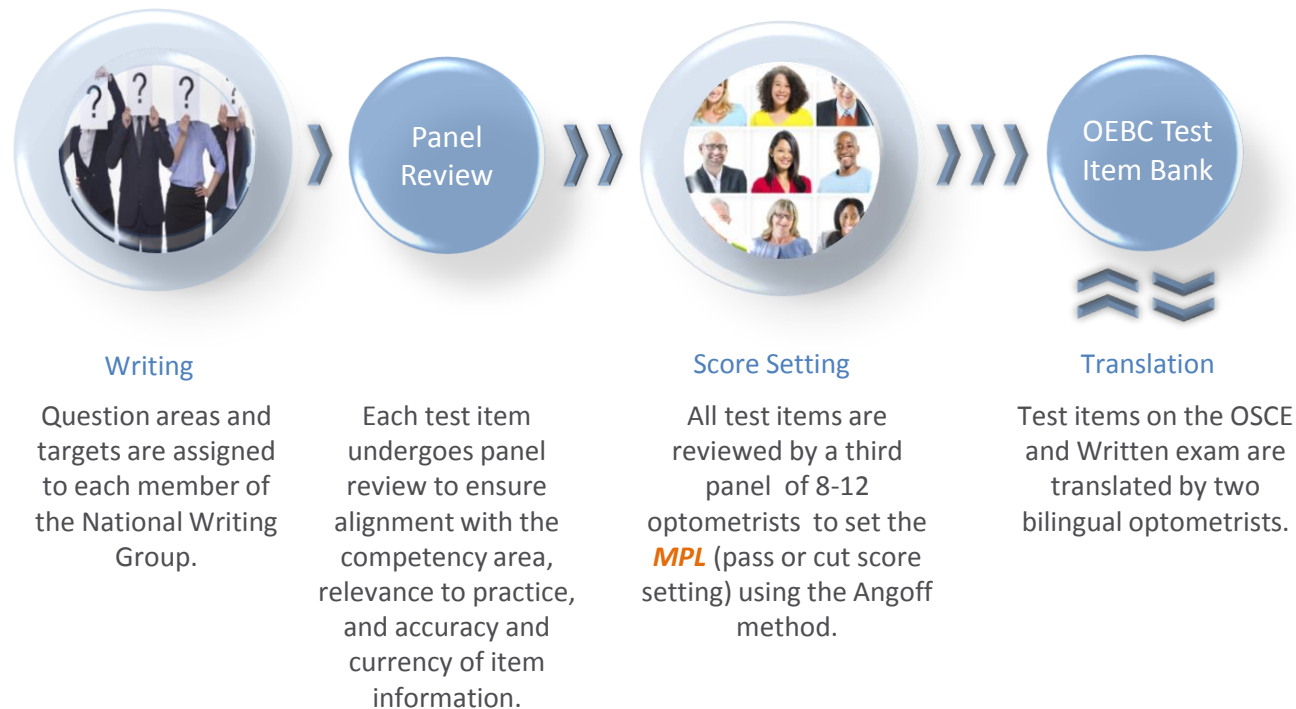
Written Exam



OSCE

## Exam Development Process: Creating Test Items by the Profession for the Profession

The exam process follows best-practice in exam development methodology and exam content is grounded in professional practice. All optometrists undergo training to fulfill the exam development stages. Optometrists who write questions are different from optometrists who set the cut score (MPL).



## By the Profession For the Profession

### Qualifications and Requirements

Members of the profession volunteer or respond to recruitment invitations to help develop and deliver our exams. These optometrists:

- have been in practice three or more years;
- are registered in good standing with a provincial optometry regulatory body in Canada; and
- meet OEBC's conflict of interest guidelines.



Conflict of interest guidelines exclude optometrists who participate in other optometry exams, exam preparatory courses or optometry degree/bridging programs. Optometrists related to an individual enrolled in a program are prohibited from participating in OEBC exam development. Our volunteer application form along with conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements ask optometrists to disclose their other connections. We use this information to identify the best path for professional involvement that works for them and OEBC.

### Trained for Success

All optometrists undergo training to develop technical and judgement skills in a specific area of assessment that supplement their professional expertise. This process helps ensure valid exam content and assessments.

### Continuing Education

Optometrists who volunteer their time and expertise earn hours that can count towards the continuing education requirements of their respective regulatory bodies. OEBC provides a letter confirming an optometrist's participation and the actual and credit hours earned in each event. See **Volunteer with OEBC**.

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**Optometrist Qualifications**

“Through my involvement in Candidate Skills Assessment [CACO], I was able to revitalize my interest in optometry, and interact with interesting colleagues from different parts of the country.

— C. Alford, OD



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# Summary Report APPENDICES

## General Definitions

**Angoff cut-score setting method:** is an industry standard in determining the passing score for any licensure (registration) exam. To set the pass score, 8 to 12 subject matter experts predict how many minimally competent candidates will respond correctly to a test item. The estimates for each item from all the subject matter experts are averaged, then tallied to yield the cut score or pass score for the examination.

**Competencies:** significant job-related knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and judgments required for competent performance (i.e., safe and effective practice). They provide an overview of what an Optometrist must be able to do at entry to practice, without supervision, when the need arises. Each Written Examination question and OSCE station is linked to specific competency(ies).

**Indicators:** examples of behaviours that are observable in, and guide the development of, the written examination and OSCE. These are representative of the competency and may be updated from time to time.

Note that each written case and each OSCE station has a primary competency and is assigned to the blueprint accordingly, however elements from other competencies may appear in these written cases and OSCE stations, reflective of the integrated nature of practice.

**National Competency Profile** OEBC's National Competency Profile for Entry-Level Optometry May 2015 lists the competencies that the profession has said are required of optometrists for safe, effective and ethical practice at entry to the profession in Canada. Its primary purpose is to guide the content of OEBC's exam.



## General Definitions

**OSCE:** stands for Objective Structured Clinical Examination. It is a form of practical examination that provides candidates with a consistent exam experience, and provides assessors with objective behavioural criteria for scoring candidate performances. OSCEs are used by many Canadian licensing bodies (regulators) as one criterion for entry to practice. Examples include medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, dental hygiene and nurse practitioners.

**Practice Areas:** broad groupings of competencies related to a “bucket” of job activities.

**Standardized patient:** is a person who has been trained to present the signs and symptoms of a condition, and respond to candidate questions, statements and actions consistently.

## General Definitions

**Total Pass Rate and Total Fail Rate:** The **Total Pass Rate** amalgamates Canadian, US and internationally-educated candidate performance. It is the total number of candidates who took the exam this year and who passed. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates — first, second and third attempt\* — who completed and passed the OEBC exam by the total number of candidates who attempted. For regulatory bodies, the Overall Pass Rate can be interpreted as the number of candidates who have met the examination requirement for registration/licensure.

The **Total Fail Rate** amalgamates Canadian, US and internationally-educated candidate performance. It is the total number of candidates who took the exam this year and who failed. For regulatory bodies, the Overall Fail Rate can be interpreted as the number of candidates who have not met the examination requirement for licensure/registration.

*\*There were no second or third attempt candidates in 2016-17.*

## General Definitions

**MPL:** stands for Minimum Performance Level and is based solely on performance criteria. Exam candidates attempt to meet or exceed the minimum standard of performance rather than competing against other candidates. The MPL ensures the standard for minimally acceptable competence is consistent despite variation in question content between administrations.

This method also removes predetermined passing rates for the administration of the exam. If the candidate population has a high level of performance on the assessment, the failure rate will be low. If the performance level of the candidate population on the assessment is low, the failure rate will be higher. The MPL is established in advance of an exam administration by a panel of practising optometrists.

See the definition of **Angoff cut-score setting**. Return to **Creating Test Items by the Profession for the Profession**

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## Candidate Definitions

**Candidate:** Candidates who have completed both the OEBC written and OSCE (at least once). Candidates who have completed only the OEBC written are not included.

Eligible candidates:

1. have graduated from an Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or ACOE-accredited optometry program; or
2. have completed an optometry bridging program through the IOBP or the EOUM, if they are internationally-educated; or
3. have been practising as optometrists in Canada or the U.S. For example a Canadian OD educated and practising in the U.S. who wants to move back to Canada; or
4. have successfully completed the evaluating exam and been approved to take the OEBC exam.

OEBC adheres to the Exam Eligibility and Registration Policies on its website to verify eligibility for each exam applicant.

**Canada:** Candidates who have graduated from an accredited Canadian school of optometry.

**US:** Candidates who have graduated from an accredited U.S. school of optometry.

**International:** Candidates who have completed a Canadian bridging program at the International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) or were approved to take the exam by the Quebec Order following bridging education at the L'École d'optométrie de l'Université de Montréal (EOUM) **...More**

*Click **here** to return to the Administrations Scorecard.*

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## Candidate Definitions

**First-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who complete the OEBC exam (written and OSCE) for the first time in an assessment cycle — October 1 to September 30. Eligible candidates taking the exam the first time may attempt the written exam before the OSCE.

**Second-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who complete the exam part that they failed during their first attempt.

**Third-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who complete the exam part that they failed during their second attempt.

Click [here](#) to return to the Administrations Scorecard.

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## Interpreting the Numbers

### What the numbers tell us

While the traditional Cronbach's alpha is reported, this coefficient is suitable for norm-referenced tests common in educational testing and which compare exam takers to each other.

The Livingston's reliability coefficient, which is also reported, is a more appropriate measure as it suitable for a criterion-referenced test such as the OEBC, which measures how a candidate's knowledge and skills compared to a defined body of content.

A closer examination of the Livingston's coefficients in the one administration indicates that they are strong, exceeding .70 – a threshold for high-stake exams. This strong reliability indicator contributes to the validity of OEBC test measures.

Click [here](#) to return to Exam Reliability by Component

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## Understanding Item Analysis and Scoring

Following each exam administration, OEBC performs item analysis. This is a process to examine how each item performed on the exam which helps ensure only valid items are kept for scoring. During this process, a panel of optometrists reviews items that do not meet established criteria and determines whether to include them in scoring.

### When items may be deleted from scoring

Test items are subject to review and possibly deleted from scoring if:

- less than 20% of the total group successfully answer; or
- the item fails to discriminate positively.

### How we make that final decision

A panel of practising optometrists, in consultation with a psychometrician, decides whether to delete the item. Items that are deleted are removed from scoring for all candidates thereby ensuring that reported results are both valid and fair. An item deleted from the scoring for either the Written exam or OSCE is generally made for the entire group of candidates (the whole group level).

*Click [here](#) to return to Item Analysis and Scoring Changes*

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## List of Performance Charts

1. OEBC 2016-2017 Total Pass/Fail Rates for All Candidates
2. OEBC Candidate Performance – Five Year Pass Rate
3. OEBC Candidates – Five Year Candidate Numbers Trend
4. OEBC 2016-2017 Total Pass Rate by Group
5. OEBC 2016-2017 OSCE Total Pass / Fail for All Candidates
6. OEBC 2016-2017 OSCE Pass Rate by Group
7. OEBC 2016-2017 Written Total Pass / Fail
8. OEBC 2016-2017 Written Pass Rate by Group
9. OEBC 2016-2017 OSCE: Group Performance Across Practice Areas
10. OEBC 2016-2017 Written: Group Performance Across Practice Areas