

Optometry Examining Board of Canada

# Summary Report 2017-18



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



MESSAGE FROM  
OUR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



2017-18 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

As OEBC continues to carry out the goals outlined in our 5-year strategic plan, we focused this year on actions to increase transparency, clarity and accessibility of information about the exam and assessment process to our candidates, practicing professionals and regulatory bodies.

### OEBC Exam

In November 2017 and May 2018, OEBC held the second and third consecutive administrations of the OEBC exam with a written exam and a practical exam (Objective Structured Clinical Exam or “OSCE”). The OSCE is held in Hamilton with the support of an experienced standardized patient program.

### OSCE Video

Candidates hope to be as prepared as possible for the exam and OEBC strives to facilitate their understanding of what they can expect. This is one measure of fairness in a licensure exam. A candidate guide tells candidates what to expect in an OSCE administration; a video shows and tells what to expect. From October to February, OEBC staff and volunteers worked with a video production company to design, script in English and French and film key parts of an OSCE administration. Video topics include: candidate orientation (arrival, identification), and elements of an interactive station. The videos were made available to candidates on the website starting February 2018. Experienced teams and our volunteers’ generous donation of time and expertise kept costs low.



**TAMI HYNES**  
Chief Executive Officer

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



## Exam policies

OEBC exam policies are carried out by staff involving the profession and legal counsel as required. Level 2 and 3 appeals panels are made up of optometrists and considered in the form of legal hearings. There were no material changes to exam policies between October 2017 and September 2018. Administrative and clarification changes were as follows:

- Exam eligibility and retake policy - updated to reflect transition from paper to online process
- Publication of results policy - updated to reflect transition from paper to online process
- Withdrawals and Refunds policy - revisions to distinguish the conditions for a refund versus conditions for withdrawal and assure candidates they may withdraw at any time for any reason up to the start of the exam. Revisions also clarify withdrawal requirements that are consistent with the eligibility/retake policy.

## Online Service Delivery

OEBC had its first full year of online registration for the fall and spring exams. OEBC replaced paper results reporting with online results reporting with the spring 2018 exam administration. The issuance of individual candidate exam results was launched mid-June providing candidates with online access to their individual results anytime, from anywhere. OEBC continues to print and mail candidates a copy of the certificate of competence. OEBC also provided its members, the 10 provincial optometric regulators with a pass/fail report for the spring 2018 exam and intends to continue to provide this after each exam.

## Exam eligibility for internationally educated candidates

The Federation of Optometry Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) verifies eligibility of internationally educated optometrists to initially attempt the OEBC exam under the **Exam Eligibility and Retake Policy**. In keeping with the **“Publication of Exam Results”** exam policy, in July OEBC provided the pass/fail results for IE candidates who had taken the exam since June 2017.

“[Volunteering]  
reminded me of what  
the expectations are of  
me. After years of  
practice, we easily forget  
them.”

— M. Sy, OD



### Strategic initiatives

In support of OEBC's strategic priorities for 2017-18, values of transparency and integrity and an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, OEBC:

- updated the **website 'look and feel'** ([oebc.ca](http://oebc.ca)) to support the mobile-enabled website and reviewed the French and English websites for content consistency,
- hired a consultant to complete an **independent exam fairness review** of its published exam policies and procedures, and worked with an independent test accommodations expert to review the **accommodations policy** and procedure for implementation in 2018-19, and
- held a **facilitated national discussion** of member-representatives and invited panelists from other Canadian exam boards about fair and defensible licensure exams.

### Competency Profile Development published article

In June, the Canadian Journal of Optometry published an OEBC article telling how the competency profile, the foundation of the OEBC exam, was developed. The article is on the OEBC website under "[Resources](#)."

Tami Hynes  
Chief Executive Officer

"Candidates hope to be as prepared as possible for the exam and OEBC strives to facilitate their understanding of what they can expect."



## The importance of our volunteers

OEBC relies heavily on members of the profession volunteering in various ways to deliver the exam - such as writing OSCE and written exam cases and questions, setting the pass score, examining candidates at the OSCE and scoring validation. Volunteers receive a modest honorarium for their time. We hope to foster a volunteer culture that provides professionals with opportunities of value to collaborate with each other, develop relationships with new optometrists and contribute to the growth of the profession.

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



“It has been a unique privilege to review the in-coming talent to our profession. Their youthful enthusiasm has reinvigorated my practice. It challenges you to get out of the routine and change things up.

— C. Alford, OD

## 2017-18 Exam Administration Results

### 2017-18 OEBC Exam Delivery

In 2017-18, OEBC completed a total of 6 separate administrations in two locations and the two official languages as follows:

- October 2017 written exam in Montreal (French)
- October 2017 written exam in Hamilton (English, bilingual)
- October 2017 OSCE in Hamilton (English, French)
- May 2018 written exam in Montreal (French)
- May 2018 written exam in Hamilton (English, bilingual)
- May 2018 OSCE in Hamilton (English, French)





## 2017-18 Exam Performance Highlights

### Candidates challenging the OEBC

In total, 228 candidates participated in the 2017-2018 administration cycle. OEBC saw 204 first-attempt candidates for the OEBC written examination and OSCE.

### Pass rates

The OEBC 2017-18 Administration Scorecards provide pass rates by **candidate subgroup** and by attempt. The first Scorecard reports the **In-Cycle Pass rate**, 88.7%, as well as the **Total Pass Rate**, 88.2%. The second Scorecard reports the Multi-Cycle Pass Rate, which was 83.3%.

The Total Pass Number, i.e. total number of candidates who have met the examination requirement for registration/licensure in 2017-18, was 201.

### First attempt pass rates

The first attempt pass rate was comparable at 83.8% versus 84.7% last year. Pass rates for first attempt candidates remained the same for the Canadian subgroup at 93.5% and increased modestly for the U.S. subgroup by 2% to 77.6%. First attempt pass rates for internationally-educated candidates fell 6.5% to 70.4%. It should be noted, however, that the number of internationally-educated candidates was larger with 27 candidates compared to 13 candidates last year.

Pass rates for first attempt candidates remained the same for the Canadian subgroup at 93.5%.

## 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.



## OEBC Scorecard — 2017-18 Administration Cycle

	Canadian			US			International			<i>In-Cycle Pass Rate</i>	<i>Total Pass Rate</i>
	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Total CDN	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Total US	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Total INT		
Candidate Totals	86/92	2/3	88/92	66/85	5/9	71/85	19/27	3/6	22/27	181/204	201/228
Pass Rate	93.5%	66.7%	95.7%	77.6%	55.6%	83.5%	70.4%	50.0%	81.5%	88.7%	88.2%

*In 2017-18 the second attempt candidates were written-only attempts.*

*The reporting period is October 1 to September 30*

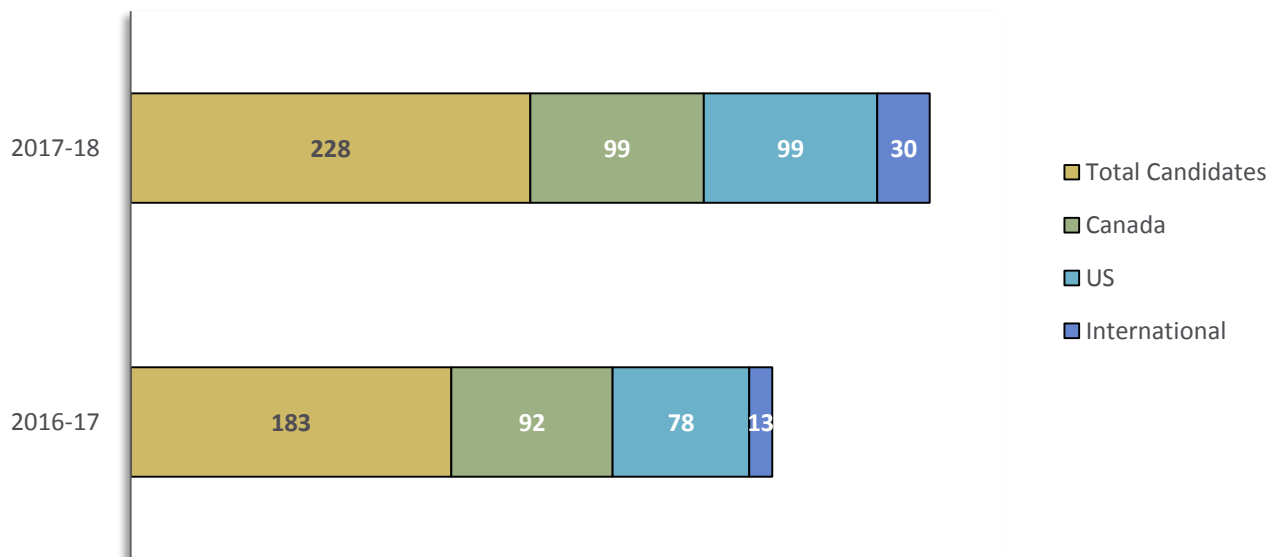
A pass is conferred on a *candidate* when he/she meets or exceeds the minimum performance level for each exam component.

## OEBC Scorecard — 2017-18 Multi-Cycle Re-assessment Candidates

	Canadian				US				International				<i>Multi-Cycle Pass Rate</i>
	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Fourth Attempt	Total CDN	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Fourth Attempt	Total US	Second Attempt	Third Attempt	Fourth Attempt	Total INT	
Candidate Totals	6/7	NA	NA	6/7	10/12	1/2	1/1	12/14	2/2	0/1	0/1	2/3	20/24
Pass Rate	85.7%	NA	NA	85.7%	83.3%	50.0%	100%	85.7%	100%	0%	0%	66.7%	83.3%

A pass is conferred on a *candidate* when he/she meets or exceeds the minimum performance level for each exam component.

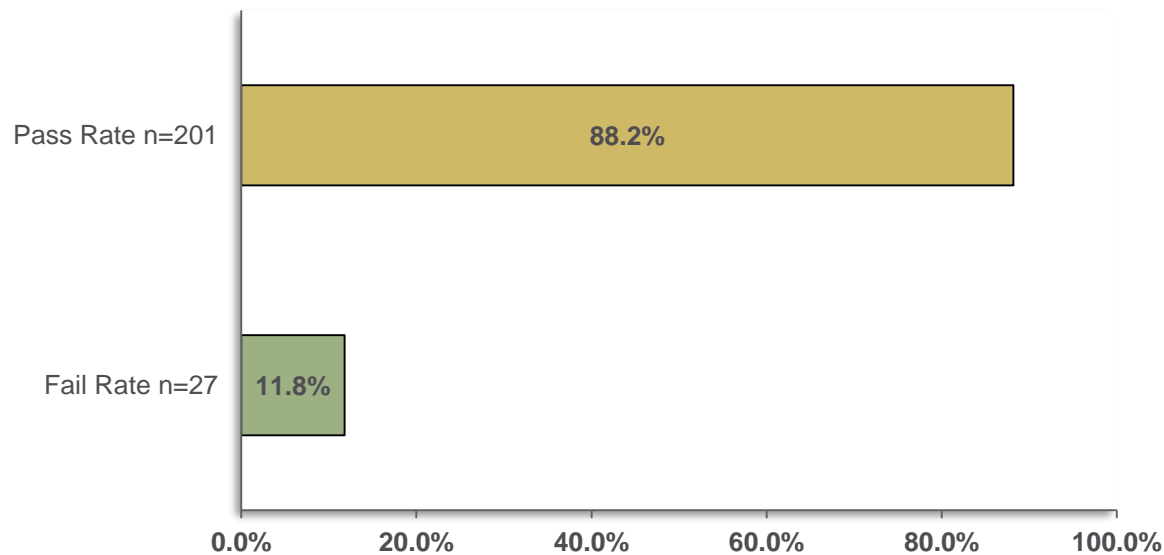
## Five Year Candidate Numbers\*



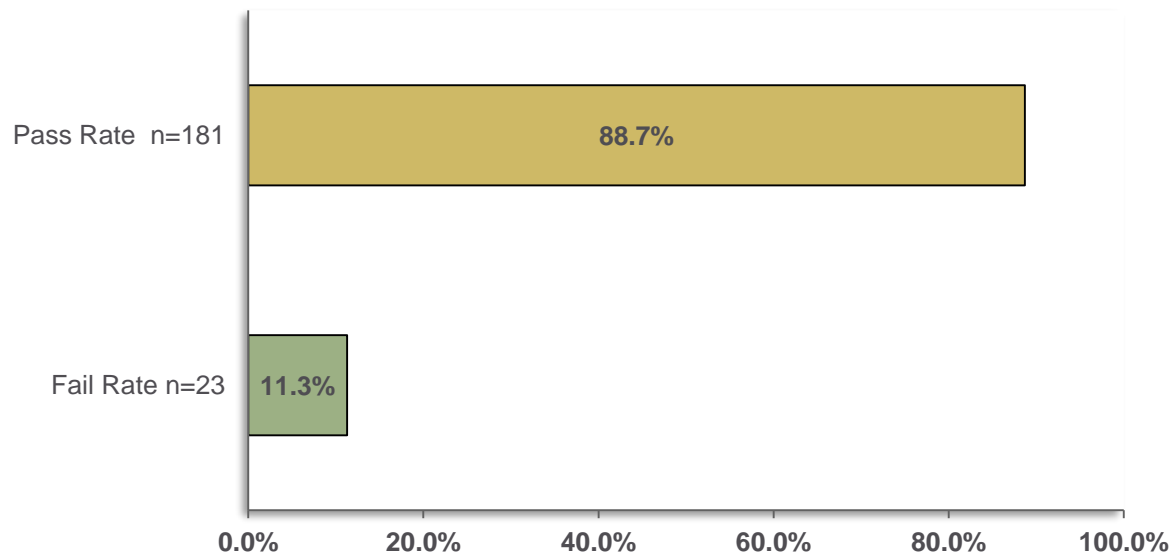
“When I participate, it  
 forces me to challenge  
 how I perform my  
 examinations (others  
 may do things differently  
 from me but still  
 adequately).”  
 — S. Ricard, OD

\*Note that the Five-Year Numbers Trend contains data for two years only as there are two annual sets of data available. Subsequent data will be included as it becomes available until a five-year trend can be reported.

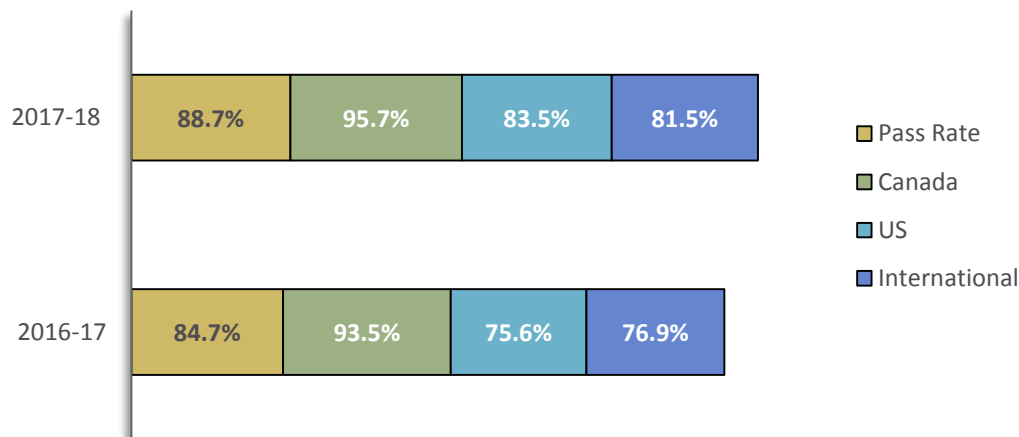
## Total Pass Rate



## In-Cycle Pass Rate



## Five Year In-Cycle Pass Rate\*



*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.*

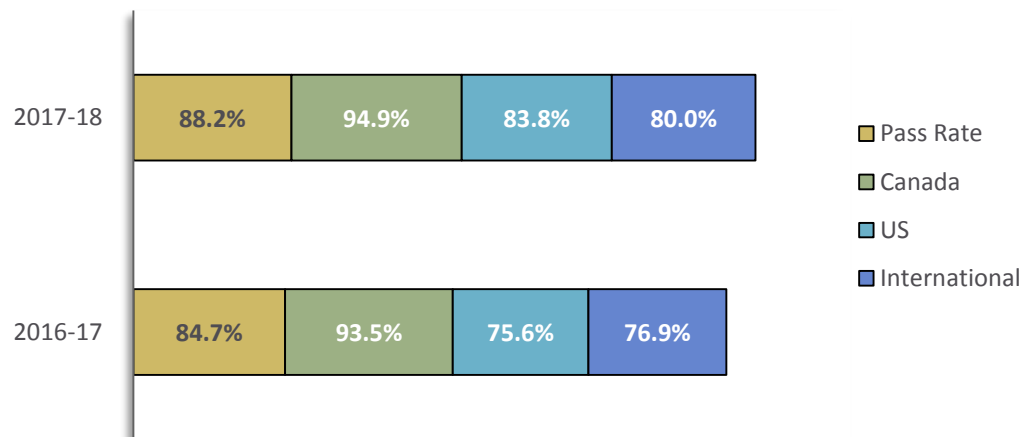
*\*Note that the Five-Year Numbers Trend contains data for two years only as there are two annual sets of data available. Subsequent data will be included as it becomes available until a five-year trend can be reported.*

“It's a great opportunity to contribute with the profession assuring that new optometrists are fit to enter into the practice.”

— E. Oliva, OD



## Five Year Total Pass Rate\*



*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.*

*\*Note that the Five-Year Numbers Trend contains data for two years only as there are two annual sets of data available. Subsequent data will be included as it becomes available until a five-year trend can be reported.*

PURPOSE OF REPORT

WHAT IS OEBC

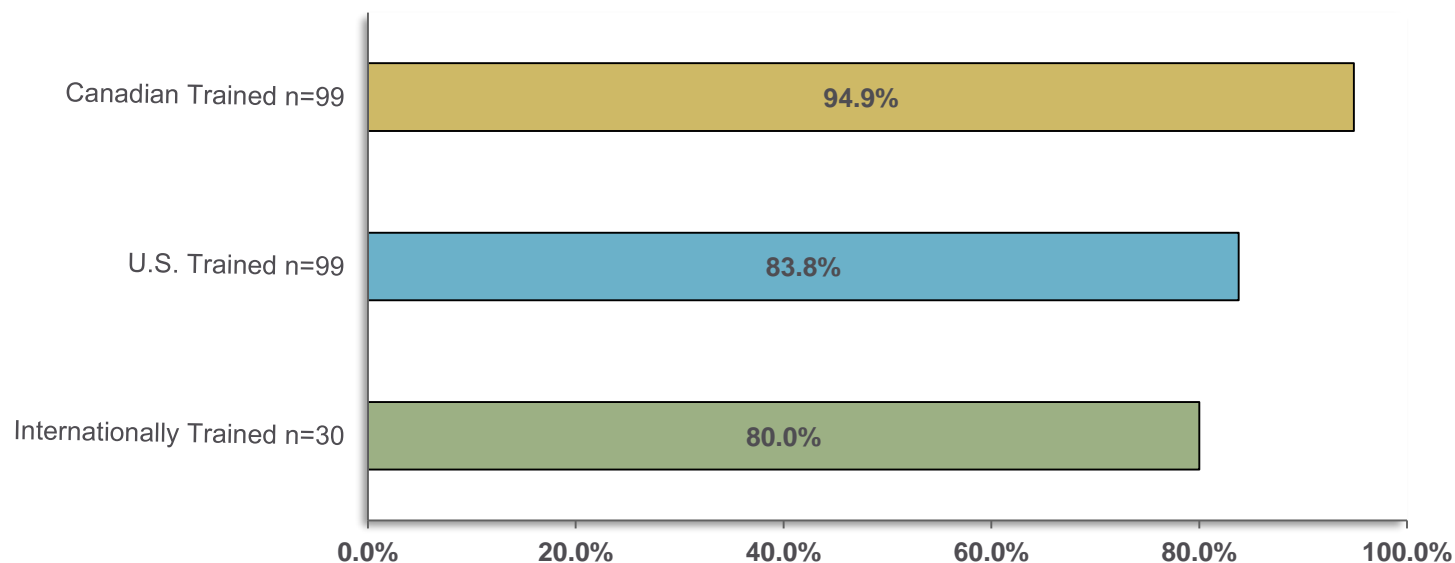
MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**2017-18 ADMINISTRATION RESULTS**

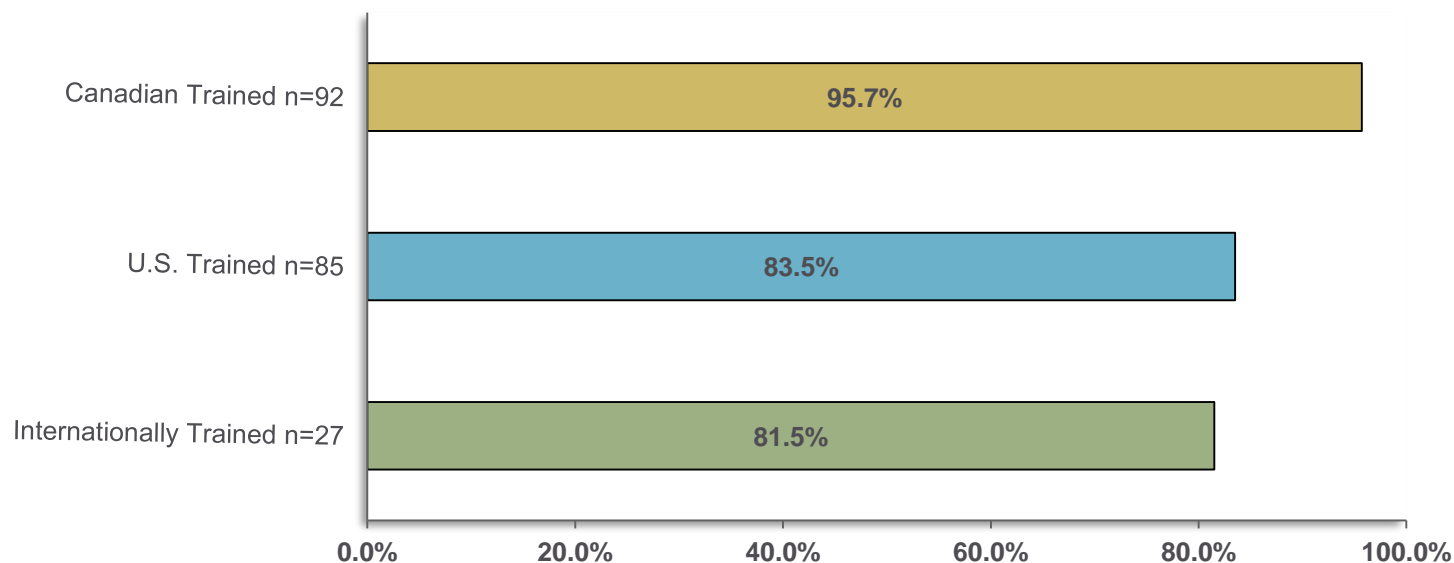
ASSESSING COMPETENCY WITH  
COMPETENCE

“Volunteering makes  
me keep up to date  
with new practice and  
treatment guidelines.”  
— K. Daigle, OD

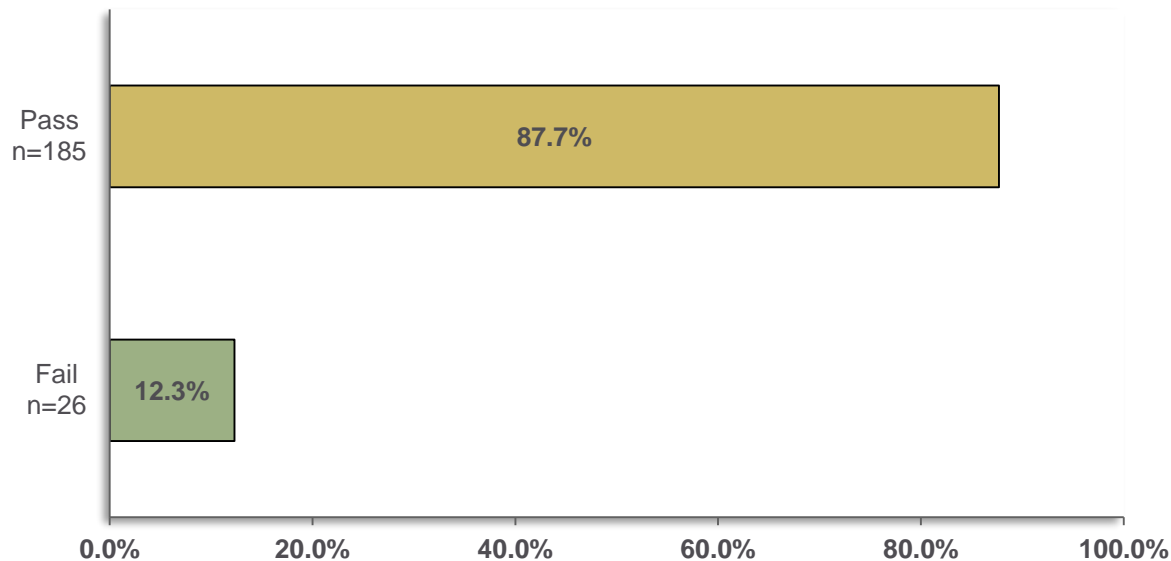
## Total Pass Rate by Subgroup



## In-Cycle Pass Rate by Subgroup



## OSCE Pass – First-Attempt Candidate



PURPOSE OF REPORT

WHAT IS OEBC

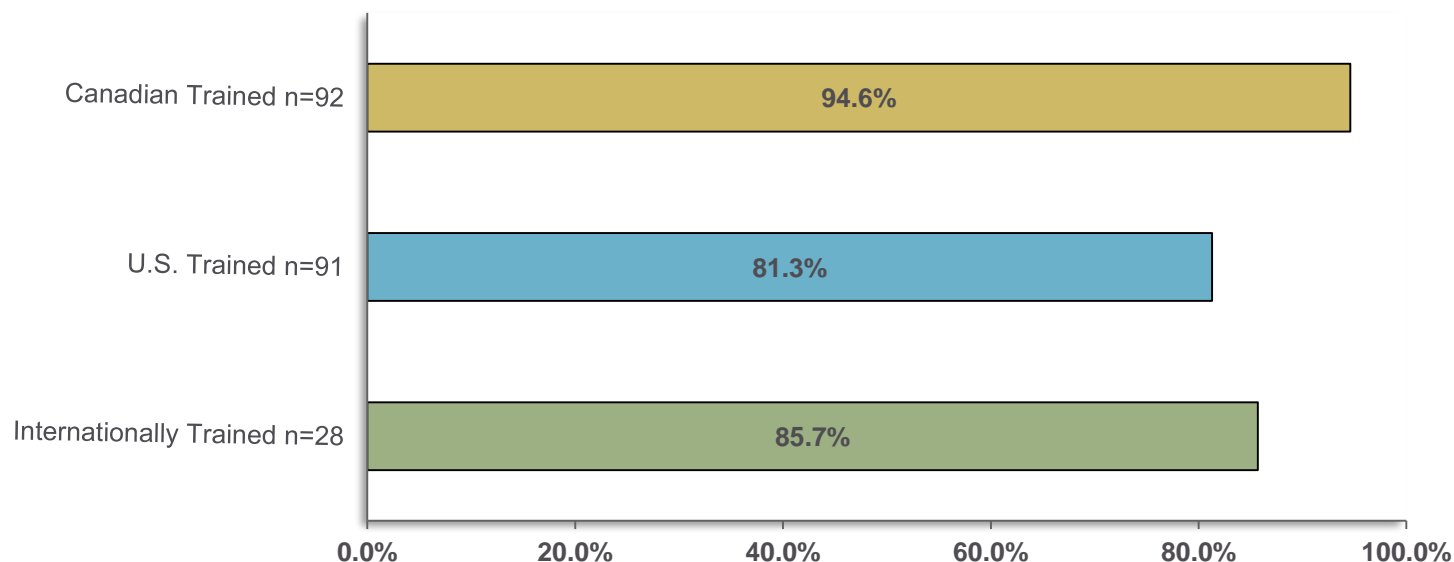
MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**2017-18 ADMINISTRATION RESULTS**

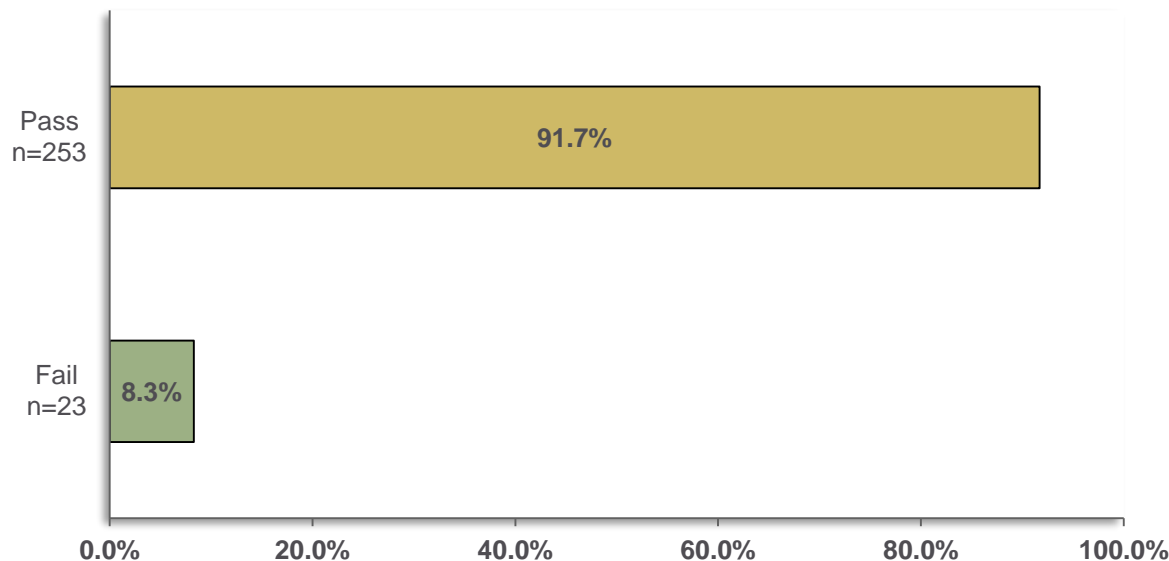
ASSESSING COMPETENCY WITH  
COMPETENCE

“Working with OEBC has renewed my enthusiasm in optometry. It's encouraging to see bright new grads excited to enter into practice..”  
— K. Mowbray, OD

## OSCE Pass – First-Attempt Candidate by Subgroup



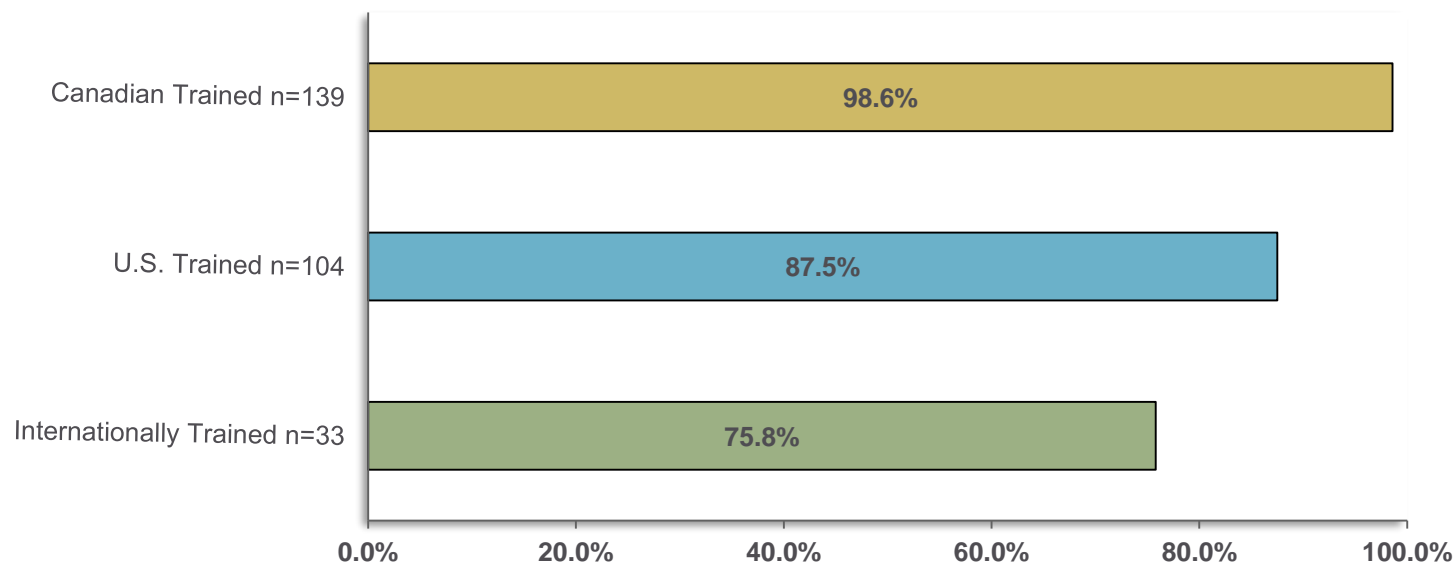
## Written Exam Pass – First-Attempt Candidate



*This chart reflects individuals who completed the written exam and includes students of L'École d'optométrie de l'Université de Montréal (EOUM).*

“Participating in the OEBC has improved the quality of care for my patients, as I am constantly being educated on the latest developments in our profession.”  
— T. McNab, OD

## Written Exam Pass – First-Attempt Candidate by Subgroup



*This chart reflects individuals who completed the written exam and includes students of L'École d'optométrie de l'Université de Montréal (EOUM).*

## 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 educated 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 Patient Centered Care, and weakest in Diagnosis & Planning.

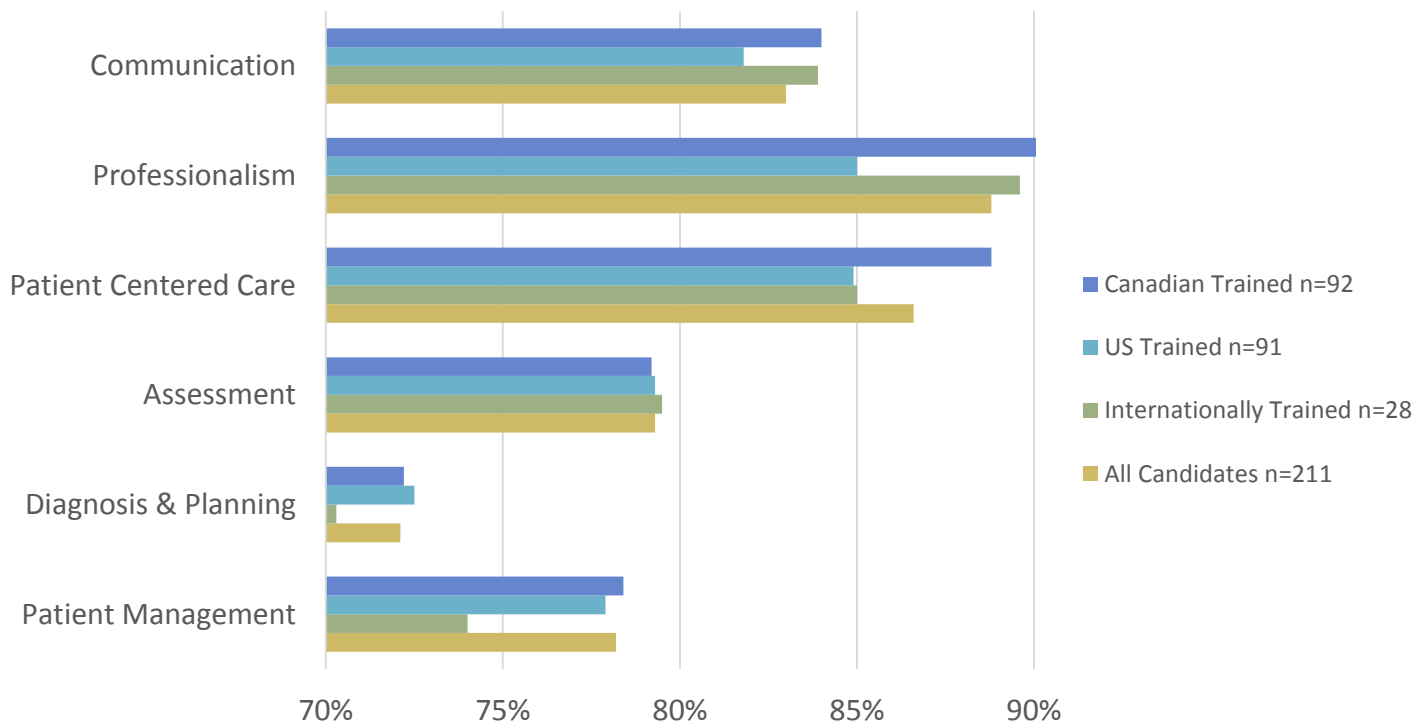
For the Written exam, all 9 practice areas were assessed. As the *Written Group Performance Across Practice Areas* chart indicates, Canadian trained candidates scored the highest of all groups in 8 of the 9 practice areas. For all candidates, the performance was strongest in the practice areas of Communication,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

Each of the practice areas is weighted and contains varying numbers of items and the percentages reflect the number of correct as a proportion of total available items, by subgroup.

Charts are based on first-attempt candidates only.

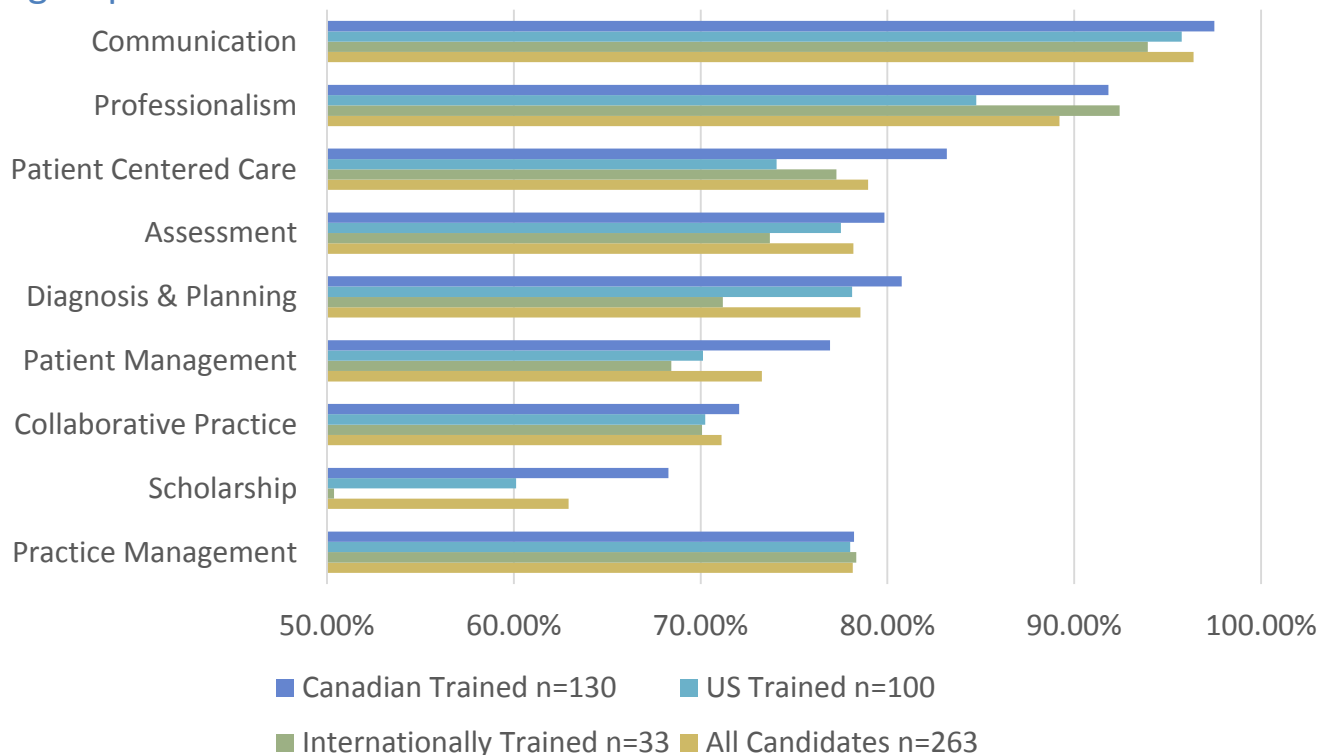


## OSCE - First-Attempt Candidate Performance Across Practice Areas, by subgroup



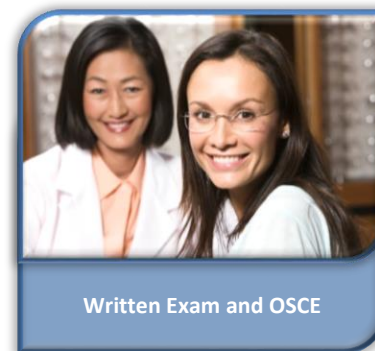
For all candidates, the performance was strongest in the practice areas of Communication, Professionalism, and Patient Centered Care.

## Written Exam - First-Attempt Candidate Performance Across Practice Areas, by subgroup



## The Entry-to-Practice Exam

The OEBC Written Exam and OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical 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 2018

	Administration November 2017	Administration May 2018
Component	K <sup>2</sup> (Livingston's Coefficient Kappa)	
Written	.94	.93
OSCE Administration 1	.72*	.89
OSCE Administration 2	N/A	.89

*\*While the November 2017 reliability coefficient exceeds the require criterion of .70 its relatively lower magnitude compared to the May 2018 OSCE coefficients is related to the small new candidate pool for November 2017 of 22 candidates while the May 2018 new candidate pools were 104 and 79 candidates respectively.*

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

The Livingston coefficients in this table meet and exceed the generally expected level of .70 for the OSCE component and .80 for the Written component, which demonstrates the reliability of our test measures.

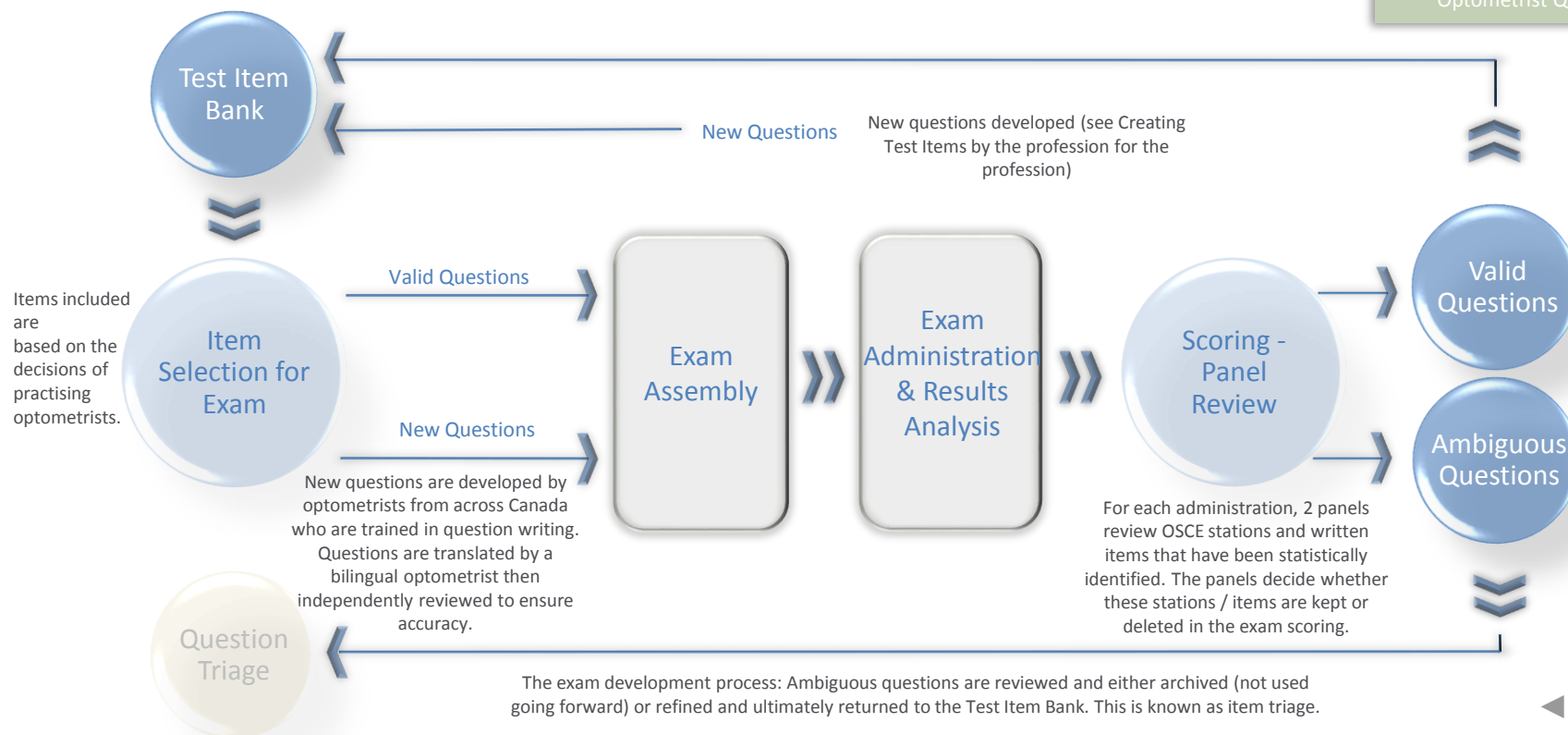
## Item Analysis and Scoring Changes– 2017-18

Exam Administration	Items Deleted from Scoring	Reason for Change
Written	November 2017 - 4 of 248 items or 1.6% May 2018 – 2 of 248 items or .80%	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 November 2017	One of 16 stations or 6%	
OSCE Administration May 2018	Day 1 – No Deletions Day 2- One of 16 stations or 6%	

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

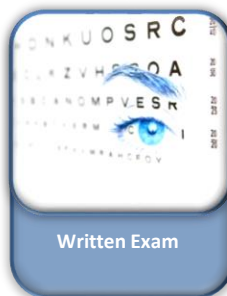
- 62 cases, 4 multiple choice questions per case

#### OSCE

- 16 stations



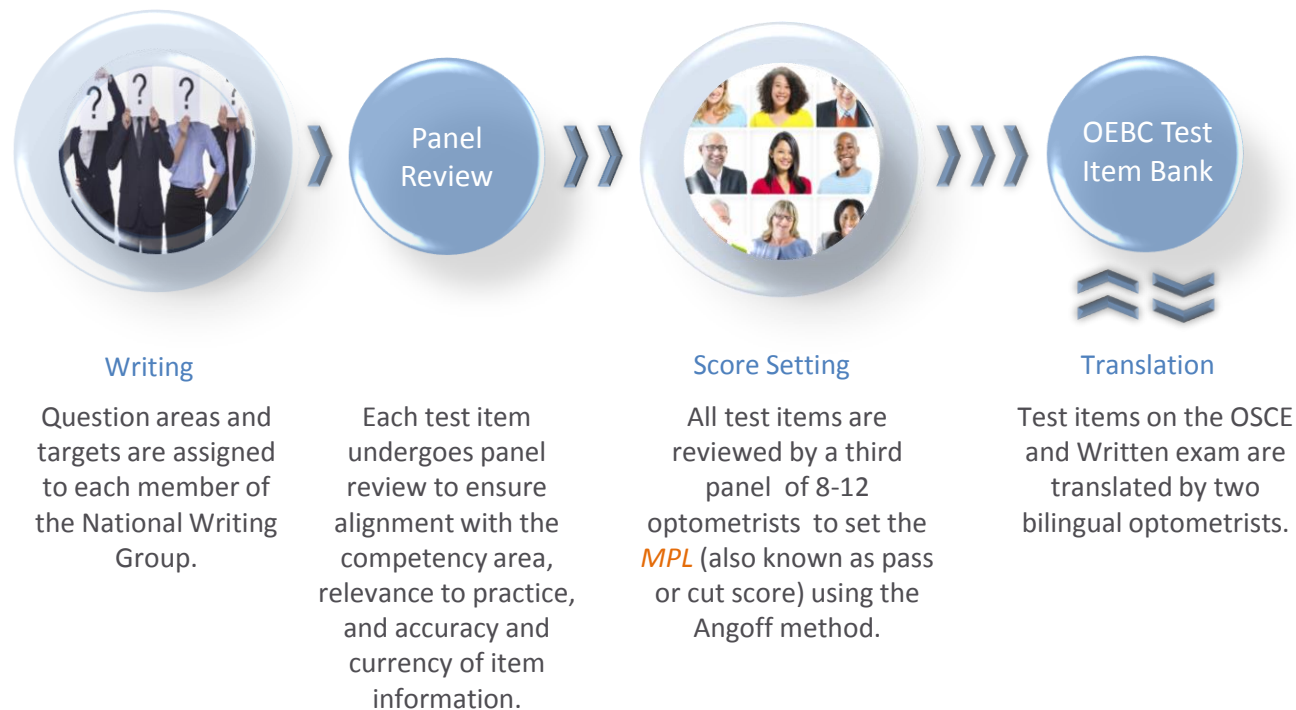
### Exam Question Areas





## 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).

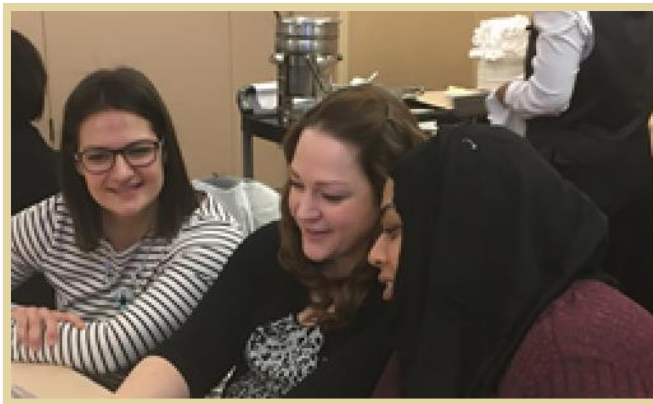


## By the Profession For the Profession

### 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*.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

WHAT IS OEBC

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2017-18 ADMINISTRATION RESULTS

**ASSESSING COMPETENCY WITH  
COMPETENCE**

Exam Development Process  
**Optometrist Qualifications**

“I enjoy contributing to the profession and I think this is one of the best ways you can do so.”

— S. Farrag, OD



OPTOMETRY EXAMINING  
BOARD OF CANADA

BUREAU DES EXAMINATEURS  
EN OPTOMÉTRIE DU CANADA

Optometry Examining Board of Canada

# Summary Report APPENDICES

## 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

**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

**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. The MPL is also known as the cut score.

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*.



## Candidate Definitions

**Candidate:** Individuals who have completed both the OEBC written and OSCE (at least once). Candidates from EOUM who took the written exam only are considered in written exam analysis (*i.e. Pages 19, 20, 23*).

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

### Candidate Subgroup:

**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.](#)

## General Definitions

**In-Cycle Pass Rate:** the total number of candidates who have completed their *first and second attempts* and passed within the current year divided by the total number of candidates who made their first or second attempts within the current year.

**Multi-Cycle Pass Rate:** the total number of candidates who have completed their *second, third, or fourth attempts* and passed in the current year but who have started in a previous year divided by the total number of candidates who made their second, third, or fourth attempt in the current year but who started in a previous year.

**Total Pass Rate:** the total number of candidates who took the exam this year and who passed. For regulatory bodies, the Total Pass Rate can be interpreted as the number of candidates who have met the examination requirement for registration/licensure.

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

---



## Candidate Definitions

**First-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who attempt 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 attempt a first re-assessment of either or both of the exam part(s) that they were previously unsuccessful on.

**Third-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who attempt a second re-assessment of either or both of the exam part(s) that they were previously unsuccessful on.

**Fourth-attempt Candidate:** Candidates who make a fourth and final attempt of the the OEBC exam (written and OSCE).

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

---



## Interpreting the Numbers

### What the numbers tell us

The Livingston's reliability coefficient, as it is a more appropriate measure for a criterion-referenced test such as the OEBC, measures a candidate's knowledge and skills compared to a defined body of content. A strong reliability indicator of .70 or greater contributes to the validity of OEBC test measures.

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

---

## 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](#)

---



## List of Performance Charts

1. OEBC Scorecard— 2017-18 Administration Cycle
2. OEBC Scorecard— 2017-18 Multi-Cycle Re-assessment Candidates
3. Overall Total Pass Rate
4. Overall In-Cycle Pass Rate
5. Candidate Performance— Five Year Total Pass Rate\*
6. Candidate Performance— Five Year In-Cycle Pass Rate\*
7. Five Year Candidate Numbers Trend
8. Total Pass Rate by Group
9. In-Cycle Pass Rate by Group
10. Total Pass/Fail OSCE – First Attempt Candidates
11. OSCE Pass Rate – First Attempt by Group
12. Written Total First Attempt Pass/Fail
13. Written Pass Rate— First Attempt by Group
14. OSCE: First Attempt Group Performance Across Practice Areas
15. Written: First Attempt Group Performance Across Practice Areas