



BUREAU DES EXAMINATEURS
EN OPTOMÉTRIE DU CANADA

OEBC Candidate Instructions and Exam Guide for the OSCE



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The following information and procedures apply to the OSCE only.

1. OSCE Examination

1.1 What an OSCE is

The OEBC OSCE is a practical exam. 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.

In an OSCE, candidates move from one room to the next to perform a series of stations. Candidates will be brought to their first station where they will find their instructions for that station on the door. They will hear a signal to enter the room, where they will carry out the instructions of that station. A copy of the instructions is also inside the room. At the end of the station, the candidate will hear a signal that the station has ended, and they should leave the room and walk to the next door where they will find their instructions for that station.

Upon entering the exam room, the candidate may introduce themselves to the examiner, standardized patient and or patient.

A candidate orientation is held before the candidates begin their assessment. During this time, the head proctor will explain the exam day procedures and emergency procedures.

Candidates may wish to review the OEBC videos at www.oebc.ca as a source of information about how OSCE administrations and OSCE stations are run in the OEBC exams.

1.2 Equipment

Candidates may be asked to perform techniques such as tonometry, gonioscopy, retinoscopy, and binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy (BIO). Any equipment, tools and props that may be required for the examination will be supplied by OEBC and candidates are expected to be able to use the provided equipment.

Photos of optometry equipment such as a Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope (BIO) and Retinoscope that may be used in the OSCE are posted on the Preparing for the Exam webpage.

1.3 Exam Day Scheduling and Timing

Approximately 6 to 8 weeks prior to the OSCE administration, candidates will receive their assigned date (Saturday or Sunday) and time (AM or PM) of their OSCE exam.

There are 12 test stations. All stations are interactive stations with a standardized patient (SP) and or patient. Four of the stations will assess integrated skills where you may be



asked to perform a skill on a human patient and model. You may be asked to explain your findings to a colleague not a patient. Therefore, you do not need to go to the level of a patient's understanding.

The total time for the exam is estimated to be two hours, plus orientation time as well as time to sign in and sign out.

The orientation is held just prior to your scheduled exam session. Candidates are responsible for allocating their time within each OSCE station. Each station is 8 minutes long and there are 2 minutes between stations. Candidates will be signaled to begin the assessment at each station. There is a signal at the 6-minute mark to warn candidates there are 2 minutes of assessment time remaining. Candidates will also be signaled at the end of the station and must remain in the examination room until this signal.

A 2-minute period is provided between each station to allow candidates to move to the next examination room and read the instructions. Candidates may not enter the next station room until the start signal. Talking with other candidates, examiners, standardized patients and patients during this time is not allowed.

Note: Candidates may **not** leave the assigned exam room or any part of the exam area for any reason without the permission of an examiner or exam staff. Candidates who leave the exam area (e.g., to go to the restroom) without permission will not be permitted to re-enter the assessment area or complete the remainder of the exam.

At the end of the station, the Examiner will stop assessing the candidate.

1.4 Exam Day Sequestering

The exam day is divided into three (3) sessions – two in the morning (AM1, AM2) and one in the afternoon (PM1). Candidates are to arrive at their scheduled sign-in time. All candidates will be sequestered, i.e., required to remain in a secure holding area, until the examination orientation has started, as follows:

- AM1, AM2: Candidates in the first session (AM1) will be sequestered until the third session has signed in. Candidates in the second session will be sequestered before the exam and or until the third session has begun. This will result in the same amount of exam and sequestering time for all candidates, i.e., **an estimated 4-5 hours.**
- PM1: Candidates in the first afternoon session (PM1) are sequestered before the exam and or until the second session is complete. This will result in the same amount of exam and sequestering time for all candidates, i.e., **an estimated 4-5 hours.**

Note:

- Any personal belongings will be collected and brought to the holding room.



- Refer to **Permissible / Non-permissible Items** “Food” for information on food during sequestering.
- Washroom breaks will be permitted under escort
- Use of cell phones or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited
- *Failure to comply with these rules is considered disruptive behaviour as defined in the Misconduct policy*

1.5 Water

Candidates are not permitted to bring water onto the examination floor. Water will be provided at a rest station, or upon request if required.

1.6 Washroom

Before the exam: Washroom facilities at the exam site are not accessible to candidates prior to sign in. Candidates may wish to use washrooms in other buildings or prior to coming to the exam.

During the exam: You must be escorted to the washroom by exam staff. If there is a rest station, you may use the washroom after the other candidates have entered their stations. You may use the washroom during a station, but no extra time is given.

1.7 Answer sheets & Instructions

Instructions will be outside the exam room. Candidates must read the instructions carefully to ensure they do what is asked in the station.

Candidates may not remove any materials from or discuss any information about the exam. Any candidate found to have materials or information about the exam will be in violation of the Misconduct Policy and subject to any and all penalties within the policy.

Important: Marked answer sheets and all other testing materials including Significant Disruption forms are the property of OEBC. Candidates must submit their card stock, and all other testing materials to the track leader or other designated person prior to leaving the exam. Candidates may not remove any materials from the examination room.

1.8 Exam Roles

Candidates are evaluated by an examiner in each interactive and integrated skills station. **Important:** Examiners are not permitted to dialogue with or provide candidates with advice, counsel, or direction.

The candidate interacts with a standardized patient (SP) who has been trained to present the signs and symptoms of a condition, and respond to the candidate’s questions,



statements, and actions consistently. Candidates should respond to the standardized patient's affect and behaviour. They should treat the standardized patients as if they are real patients and ensure that no harm comes to them.

The OSCE involves no direct contact on the standardized patient. If there are required tests or procedures in an OSCE station they will be performed on a model.

All stations may be monitored, and video or audio recorded for exam security purposes.

Exam staff will be identified before the exam and will assist candidates in movement through the next station.

A Chief Examiner will maintain oversight of the exam administration.

1.9 Conflict of Interest

A direct personal or professional relationship (e.g., relative, close friend, current or recent employer) with either the Examiner or the Standardized Patient must be declared by the candidate prior to the commencement of the station or examination. The Examiner or SP will also declare such a relationship. The Chief Examiner or designate evaluates and determines whether a conflict exists. This decision is final.

1.10 Dress Code

Outerwear such as coats, ski pants, gloves/mitts, scarves, hats are not permitted in the assessment area. Visible jewelry is not permitted.

Candidates' attire and grooming must be appropriate to a professional in a health care setting. Candidates may wish to dress in layers as the temperature of examination sites may fluctuate. Clothing with excessive pockets or excessive in size may not be permitted. OEBC will refuse entry or assessment to candidates who, in the opinion of the Chief Examiner or other designated exam staff, are inappropriately dressed or wearing non-permitted clothing.

Inappropriate dress would include:

- Shorts
- Tank top shirts (sleeveless or short-sleeve shirt is acceptable)
- Flip-flops
- Ripped clothing

Non-permitted dress would include:

- Clothing with hoods



- Clothing with logos/lettering/pictures and/or statements
- Laboratory coats
- Clothing with excessive pockets or layers or excessive in size
- Baseball caps and any other head covering
- Any form of wristband, armband, watch, etc.
- Visible jewelry such as rings, any piercings etc. Ensure all jewelry has been removed before arriving at the exam.

Note: If the candidate wishes to request wearing a head covering or object for a religious reason, the candidate must submit a request for approval to OEBC at exams@oebc.ca no later than 30 days before the exam.

Note: If jewelry is being worn for medical reasons, please contact OEBC at exams@oebc.ca no later than 30 days before the exam.

1.11 Exam Termination

The OSCE exam will be terminated if the candidate is found to be in possession of prohibited materials inside the assessment area, if the candidate has brought unauthorized equipment, if the candidate leaves the assessment area for any reason without permission, or if a candidate is found to be violating the rules of conduct. An exam station will be terminated if a Standardized Patient is injured or if it is determined that the Standardized Patient or Examiner is being placed at risk of injury.

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