



The University of British Columbia

## **Requalifying in Healthcare Professions - Internationally Trained Pharmacists**

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*Wednesday, June 1st, 2005  
New Solutions and Alternatives in BC  
for Internationally Trained Professionals*



## **Agenda**



1. Licensing Requirements for Pharmacists in Canada
2. Licensing Requirements for Internationally Trained Pharmacists (ITP's) in Canada
3. Registration Requirements for Pharmacists in BC
4. Specific Challenges Obtaining Licensure in Canada Experienced by ITPs
5. Addressing the Barriers – UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)



## **Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Licensing Requirements for Pharmacists in Canada**

- All Provincial pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (PRA's) in Canada, except Quebec, require that all applicants possess the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Certificate of Qualification as a prime requisite for licensure
- In addition to Board registration, each PRA stipulates other licensing requirements such as practical experience, residence, language proficiency and jurisprudence examinations.



## **PEBC Licensing Requirements for Internationally Trained Pharmacists**

### **A. 2-step Evaluation Procedure**

- 1) Document Evaluation
- 2) Evaluation Examination

Pharmacy graduates trained outside of Canada must successfully complete a 2-step Evaluation Procedure before they can write the PEBC Qualifying Examination (Board Exam)

### **B. Qualifying Examination**

<http://www.pebc.ca/EnglishPages/General/HomePage.html>



## **A. The 2-Step Evaluation Procedure**

### **Step 1: Document Evaluation**

The PEBC must evaluate certain documents to ensure that ITP's have a degree in Pharmacy that is acceptable to the PEBC. If an ITP's documents are favourably evaluated, they are given permission to write an Evaluating Examination



## **Step 2: The Evaluating Examination**

- This examination is to determine whether or not the ITP has completed a program of study comparable to that taught in Canada.
- 300 Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination divided into two sittings, taken on two consecutive half-days – 3.5 hrs.
- Questions designed to evaluate applicants knowledge in all areas of current pharmaceutical education



## **Qualifying Examination**

The Qualifying Examination is designed to assess the competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) required for safe and effective pharmacy practice at an entry level as defined in "Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice" (National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities [NAPRA], 1977)



## **Qualifying Examination Cont'd**

### **Part I (MCQ) or QE-I (MCQ)**

- written examination in a multiple choice question (MCQ) format.
- divided into two sittings, taken on two consecutive half-days (3.5 hrs).



## **Qualifying Examination Cont'd**

### **Part II (OSCE) or QE-II (OSCE)**

- a practice-based examination designed in the format known as an "Objective Structured Clinical Examination" (OSCE), and is taken on a different day than the MCQ.
- The QE-II (OSCE) consists of a series of 7-minute stations or simulations which are based on common and critical practical situations.
- Simulations often involve interactions with a Standardized Patient/Client or a Standardized Physician with a trained Assessor observing, recording and assessing interactions.



## **Registration as a Qualifying Candidate in BC**

All qualifying candidates must comply with registration requirements and successfully complete the required examinations/assessments and applicable internship hours to be eligible for registration as a pharmacist in BC



## **Registration as a pharmacist in BC**

To be eligible to register as a pharmacist in B.C. candidates must meet specific requirements in the following areas:

1. Education
2. Examination(s)/Assessment(s)
3. Fluency in English
4. No Criminal Record
5. Evidence of Identity
6. Practical Training
7. Application(s) and Fee(s)

<http://www.bcpharmacists.org/registration/information/>



## **Assessment/Examination Requirements for BC Pharmacists**

1. Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Certification- Parts I (MCQ) and II (OSCE)
2. English Language Fluency (ELF) Requirement
3. College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC) Jurisprudence Examination
4. Internship Program (if applicable)



## **English Language Fluency**

All candidates, except those trained in a CCACP accredited North American University, are required to successfully complete one of the approved English language fluency (ELF) requirements listed below:

- 1) TSE/TOEFL/TWE (all three)
- 2) TSE / C-TOEFL/TWE (all three)
- 3) CanTEST
- 4) TSE / MELAB
- 5) IELTS (ACADEMIC)



## **Jurisprudence Examination**

- based on legislation contained in federal and provincial acts, their regulations, and published College policies and guidelines that pertain to pharmacy operations and pharmacists' responsibilities in the practice of pharmacy.
- designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of and ability to interpret and apply all legislation that impacts on current pharmacy practice in B.C.
- comprehensive, written examination composed of ~150 questions, including multiple choice, matching and true or false.



## **Internship Program**

- Qualifying candidates must complete a 160 to 500 hour internship period over a consecutive 4-12 week period in an approved practice site under an approved preceptor
- Candidates are responsible for identifying their internship site and preceptor
- ELF requirements must be completed before starting internship period



## **Immigration to Canada**

- For all matters regarding immigration, candidate must contact local Immigration Authorities directly.
- PEBC and PRA cannot provide information or answer questions about immigration

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.html](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.html)



## **Challenges of ITP's**

1. Lack of recognition of foreign-trained credentials remains the most significant barrier
2. Lack of accessible, clearly understandable information regarding the process of obtaining licensure and entry into the profession
3. Lack of central coordinating agency which could assist newcomers in navigating the pathway to the profession
4. Limited support offered to immigrants seeking licensure and training



## **Challenges of ITP's Cont'd**

5. Lack of access to adequate, occupation-specific educational/training upgrading, language training and testing
6. Cost factors associated with credential assessment and training programs
7. Lack of Canadian pharmacy practice experience making it difficult to access employment
8. Lack of opportunities and mentoring
9. Cultural acclimatization
10. Language barriers especially with respect to technical language



## Addressing the Barriers

### UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)

12 week programme designed for:

1. **Internationally Trained Pharmacists** - to achieve the competencies for pharmacy practice in Canada
2. **Canadian Trained Pharmacists** - to re-enter pharmacy practice in British Columbia after a prolonged absence OR provide updates on core competencies for practising pharmacists



## UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)

- The program has been designed using the Ability-Based Outcomes, designated by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), that form the framework for the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences undergraduate program.

- The courses have all been created around the same resources and source material used in the undergraduate program, with the added component of intercultural training.



## UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)

### Modules

Communication Skills  
 Therapeutics  
 Patient Dialogue Skills  
 Health Care Systems Overview  
 Practice Skills Lab  
 Getting Ready  
 Practice Placement



## UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)

### Registration Requirements

1. Successful completion of PEBC Evaluation Examination
2. Successful completion of the English Language Fluency Requirements as set out by the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia



## UBC Canadian Pharmacy Practice Programme (CP3)

Offered twice yearly, spring and fall. Tentative dates for the next sessions:

### Fall session

- November 7 to December 17, 2005, resuming from January 3 to February 12, 2006.
- Application deadline: October 21, 2005.

### Spring session

- May 8 to June 17, 2006, resuming from June 26 to August 6, 2006.
- Application deadline: April 24, 2006.

<http://www.pharmacy.ubc.ca/cppd/programs/CP3%20Application%20Form%20revision%20120505.doc>



## For more information about CP3 Programme

### Sandi Hutty and/or Catherine Ekeland

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<http://www.pharmacy.ubc.ca/cppd/programs/CP3%20%20Program.htm>



The University of British Columbia

# Questions?

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