



May 30 2019

REVISED OEBC EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT

Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) introduces a revised exam blueprint to take effect spring 2020.

Beginning in spring 2020, the exam will follow the **Revised OEBC Exam Blueprint** found [here](#). The fall (November) 2019 exam will continue to reflect the current OEBC exam blueprint found [here](#).

All OEBC exam policies and procedures continue to apply. Candidates are required to read these policies and procedures before registering for the exam and should direct any questions to exams@oebc.ca

Background information

1. What has changed in the revised blueprint?

The written exam is reduced from 62 to 58 cases and some content has moved to the OSCE. The OSCE length is reduced to 12 stations from 16 stations, with 9 interactive and 3 non-interactive stations. Communication and professionalism are assessed across all interactive stations and there is increased weight for diagnosis and planning.

2. Why did OEBC revise the exam blueprint?

A group of subject matter and test experts reviewed relevant materials and recommended changes to the Written and OSCE blueprints that would better position exam content and optimize resources in order to deliver the most cost effective, valid examination possible.

3. Who revised the blueprint?

Subject matter experts revised the blueprint to ensure that the decisions regarding the blueprint reflected the nature of current practice and assessment design principles. Participants for the blueprint review group included five practicing optometrists with expertise in the OEBC exam, and three practicing optometrists from two regulatory bodies. At the initial core working group meeting all participants engaged fully in the blueprint review process. Test consultants including OEBC's principal psychometrician guided the work.

4. What process was followed to revise the blueprint?

The optometrists in the blueprint review group followed a consensus method to arrive at the revised blueprint recommendations. A group consensus methodology is commonly used as a part of a “combined empirical and rational/judgement method” (Downing and Haladyna, 2006) in the development of test blueprints, where decisions are made regarding the specific content and its relative representation on an examination. The method emphasizes full participant engagement and critical thinking and results in well-grounded and defensible decisions, where the perspectives of all representatives of the profession, are included. This method, utilized during the initial OEBC exam blueprint creation in 2015 as well as regularly in exam develop tasks including setting an item’s cut score, is described in the peer reviewed article “Updating The Competency Profile and Examination Blueprint for Entry-Level Optometry in Canada” (2018), published in Canadian Journal of Optometry.

OEBC consulted with stakeholders including regulatory bodies (its members), the Canadian optometry schools and the Canadian association by providing the proposed blueprint for feedback. The Working Group considered the feedback and submitted their final blueprint recommendation to OEBC.

All proposed changes in the blueprint have been implemented to ensure that the integrity of both the competency profile and the psychometric characteristics of the exam are maintained and under the guidance of the OEBC psychometrician.

5. I am a candidate who will be eligible to attempt the written exam in fall 2019 and the OSCE in spring 2020. How does this affect me?

Candidates attempting the exam (the written and/or OSCE) in fall 2019 should refer to the current exam blueprint. Candidates attempting the exam (the written and/or OSCE) in spring 2020 should refer to the Revised OEBC Exam Blueprint.

Information Contact: exams@oebc.ca