

Policy – Regulatory examinations

June 2023

Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) repeat policy

Purpose

This document sets out the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's (the Board) policy on examination repeats for candidates undertaking Board's regulatory examinations for overseas-qualified Chinese herbal medicine practitioners and acupuncturists who apply for registration to practise in Australia and who fail an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

This policy applies to all candidates who fail the OSCE.

Examination repeats

If a candidate fails to pass the OSCE, the Board (or its delegate) will refuse the candidate's application for registration in Australia.

A candidate who fails to pass the OSCE and wishes to repeat the examination must submit a new application for registration and pay the full OSCE fee. When a candidate repeats an examination, they must complete all stations in the OSCE, i.e. the entire OSCE, not just the station(s) they failed on their previous attempt(s). Results from a candidate's previous OSCE will not be taken into consideration when determining the result of the candidate's repeat examination.¹

OSCE

A candidate who fails the OSCE will be allowed to submit a new application for registration as a Chinese herbal medicine practitioner and/or acupuncturist and to repeat the OSCE as a new applicant.

As mentioned above, when a candidate repeats an OSCE, they must complete all stations in the OSCE. Results from a candidate's previous attempt(s) will not be taken into consideration when determining the result of the candidate's repeat OSCE.

There is no limit to the number of times a candidate can sit the OSCE. A candidate, who wishes to re-sit the OSCE, must submit a new application for registration each time and pay the relevant application and OSCE fees in full for each attempt.

As the OSCE sessions are scheduled for specific months, a candidate can sit the OSCE only when there is a scheduled session. No special arrangement in addition to the scheduled examination sessions will be arranged.

Candidate feedback

Candidates who pass the OSCE will be advised of the next steps in support of their application for registration in Australia.

¹ **Stations:** Multiple stations of different tasks relating to a clinical scenario or clinical skill demonstration are set up at the OSCE testing venue. All stations must be completed by a candidate on the same day.

Candidates who fail the OSCE will be given a report that identifies the capability areas where they failed to demonstrate the level of knowledge and/or clinical skills and/or professional attributes necessary to practise as a Chinese medicine practitioner in Australia.

Although there is no limit on the number of times a candidate can repeat the OSCE. The Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) recommend that candidates carefully consider the results of their previous examination(s) before deciding to repeat an examination.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every three years.

Definitions and abbreviations

Regulatory examinations are used by the Board to assess overseas-qualified Chinese herbal medicine practitioners and acupuncturists who apply for registration to practise in Australia and who are assessed as holding a qualification that is relevant but not substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies to an Australian Board-approved qualification (and who meet the mandatory registration standards).

Associated documents

Regulatory examinations candidate handbook – Objective structured clinical examination

Effective date

June 2023