

Frequently asked questions

Registration examination changes effective as of 1 January 2021

How has the structure of the written examination changed?

The structure of the written exam has been altered with the written exam to be conducted over two (2) hours instead of the previous situation of three (3) hours. The exam will contain 75 questions and be made up of questions covering 6 content areas, which are based on the [National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016](#). The content areas are competency standards 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6.

For more information on the written exam please refer to the [APC website](#).

How has the structure of the oral exam changed?

The structure of the oral exam has changed with the removal of *Part 1: Medication knowledge and counselling* and will now consist of three parts instead of four. The oral exam will be 35 minutes long rather than 45 minutes.

For more information on the oral exam please refer to the *Pharmacy oral examination (practice) candidate guide* on the [Internships](#) webpage on the Board's website.

If both the written and oral examinations are shorter, will I be assessed against fewer competencies?

No, the same competencies will be assessed with less duplication across the written and oral examinations. Success in both examinations still provides assurances to the Board and the public that interns are competent to practise unsupervised once they have completed their supervised practice and intern training program, and have gained general registration.

What other changes have been made?

The written examinations and the oral examinations will be held **three times a year** according to the existing oral examination schedule (to be held in February, June and October).

Entry to the written examination and the oral examination will be granted to candidates who have completed **75 per cent of the approved supervised practice hours** required for general registration by the date of the examinations.

Successful completion of the written examination will no longer be an eligibility requirement for entry into the oral examination.

Can I sit the oral and the written examinations during the same period?

Yes, you can apply to sit both exams during the same examination period and are encouraged to do so. As you would be completing these exams after completion of 75 per cent of your supervised practice hours, you should be suitably prepared. If you prefer to sit each examination in separate exam periods, this will of course mean that it will take you longer to complete the requirements for general registration.

How will the Board make sure that my examinations aren't scheduled at the same time?

Ahpra and APC conduct the examinations on behalf of the Board and will work collaboratively to ensure that your examinations are scheduled at different times during the exam period.

How do I apply to sit the examinations?

To apply to sit the written examination please refer to the [APC website](#). To apply to sit the oral examination please refer to the [Internships](#) webpage on the Board's website.