



Policy Equivalency Determination - Knowledge, Skills, Ability and Judgment	Replaces former policy: ☒ Title: Assessment for Substantial Equivalence ☐ N/A
Dietetics	Date Effective: 2026-07-01
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Policy Statement

As part of the Dietetic Equivalency Determination - Knowledge, Skills, Ability and Judgment process, the Licence Committee requires the following assessments:

- Knowledge Assessment (KA)
- Practical Assessment Interview (PAI)

Eligibility

Applicants who have never been licensed or registered as a dietitian in a Canadian jurisdiction must submit the following to be determined eligible to be assessed for substantial equivalency:

Language

- Proof of English language proficiency, in accordance with the Language Proficiency policy

Education and Experience

- A. Proof of successful completion of the equivalent of a Canadian 4-year bachelor's or master's degree in dietetics, food and nutrition, or an equivalent major, that includes the coursework common to the Recognized Education Programs in dietetics listed in the CHCPBC Bylaws, Schedule "5";

and

- B. Proof of either:

- i) successful completion of a formal practicum or internship program;

or



ii) proof of licensure or registration as a dietitian/nutritionist, in the jurisdiction where the program was completed; and proof of work experience as a dietitian/nutritionist

Attempts

Candidates are permitted 1 attempt at each of the KA and PAI. Candidates may request to end the assessment process after their attempt at the KA and have their application closed. Former applicants who upgrade their knowledge and/or gain additional experience in dietetics may re-apply and have a second attempt at the KA.

Competency Areas Assessed

- Food and Nutrition Expertise (KA and PAI)
- Nutrition Care (KA and PAI)
- Population Health Promotion (KA and PAI)
- Food Provision (KA and PAI)
- Communication and Collaboration (PAI)
- Management and Leadership (PAI, combined with Food Provision)
- Professionalism and Ethics (PAI)

Scoring

Answers recorded during the KA are scored automatically. Verbal responses given during the PAI are evaluated by two Assessors using standardized rubrics and answer keys.

Minimum threshold scores are established for each competency area: 55% for the KA and 2 out of 3 for the PAI.

Outcomes

Outcomes of an Equivalency Determination include:

- Equivalent: Candidate deemed eligible to attempt the CDRE and to apply for a Provisional Licence
- Not Equivalent - Upgrading Required: Candidate is required to undergo specified academic and/or practical upgrading
- Not Equivalent: Completion of a Canadian Recognized Education Program including an internship/practicum as specified in the CHCPBC Bylaws, Schedule 5: Dietetics to be eligible to practise in BC

1. Policy Rationale and Purpose

The College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (CHCPBC) is responsible for assessing substantial equivalency.

The Knowledge Assessment (KA) and the Practical Assessment Interview (PAI) are designed to assess whether an applicant's competence aligns with the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP) at an entry-to-practice level. This policy establishes assessment eligibility, format, competency areas assessed, scoring, and possible outcomes for internationally educated dietitians seeking licensure in BC.



2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to internationally educated dietitians seeking licensure in BC.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

Licensure Team Members

Licensure team members determine candidate eligibility, including assessment of equivalent majors, in accordance with this policy, and ensure all assessment information provided to candidates aligns with this policy.

Licence Committee Members

Licence Committee members consider assessment outcomes when making equivalency determinations and ensure decisions are reasonable, proportionate, and procedurally fair.

4. Legal and Regulatory Authority

This policy is linked to the following legislation and regulatory documents:

- Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)
- CHCPBC Bylaw 6.17 & 6.28

5. Other Relevant Policies and Documents

This policy is linked to the following other relevant policies and documents:

- Accommodation Policy
- Appeals Policy
- Dietitian Knowledge Assessment Information Guide
- Dietitian Practical Assessment Interview Information Guide
- Examination Withdrawal and Rescheduling Policy
- Language Proficiency Policy
- Self-Directed Learning Plan

6. Key Partnerships

- [Nexam](#)

7. Definitions

None identified at this time.

8. Process Check

The following documents have been consulted and applied to this policy.

- ☒ Policy Development Framework (required)



☒ Anti-Discrimination Measures (S14/15 HPOA) (required if applicable)

9. Resources/References

[Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice \(ICDEPS\) 2020.](#)

Reviewed by the Board on:		☒ N/A
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