

Guidelines for Royal College Exam Eligibility General Psychiatry Residency Program

Background and Purpose

The Department of Psychiatry is committed to supporting residents in completing Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC or RC in this document) requirements as an essential part of training, including the successful completion of the RC exam. RC examinations are offered annually for each specialty and subspecialty. As the RC exam for Psychiatry is moved from TTP to COD (PGY5 to PGY4) for the 2023-24 academic year, the residency program must re-define exam eligibility per this process, and in the context of Competence by Design (CBD).

This document reviews the University of Toronto General Psychiatry Residency Program's guidelines for eligibility to take the RC exam. Our aim is to meet RC requirements, maximize potential for resident success, and minimize burden to residents.

Please note – important timelines and exam information

There are a few important actions that must be taken in advance of the exam date to review a resident's eligibility to sit the exam:

- 1) The resident must apply to the RC approximately one year in advance of the exam for a training assessment to confirm they have met specialty-specific training requirements.
- 2) In approximately the fall prior to the exam, the residency program confirms to the RC that the resident has met the specialty-specific training requirements and is expected to be able to sit the exam.
- 3) The RC issues the resident a ruling letter, sent by the online credentials registration system, confirming that the resident meets the training requirements to register for the examination.

There are two parts to the RC Psychiatry Exam:

- 1) Written exam
- 2) Applied exam

Residents must meet minimum requirements to “pass” the written exam to be invited to sit for the applied exam. At 8 weeks separate the written and applied exam to allow for marking of exam and informing candidates of the written exam outcome.

Reference Documents

[CBD Technical Guide for exam readiness](#)

University of Toronto Requirements for RC exam eligibility:

1. Having entrustments in some of the COD EPAs (Residents should aim for >50%)

The May PCS will review how current PGY3s are progressing in COD EPAs while taking into consideration other assessment data. The benchmark provided is to support residents in planning their learning.

2. Be in good academic standing with no performance or professionalism concerns. Residents must not be in formal or informal remediation at the time that exam eligibility is considered.

“Informal” remediation occurs when a resident is “not progressing as expected” and referred to the Resident Assessment and Support Subcommittee (RASC); “formal” remediation occurs when resident is referred to Board of Examiners (BOE).

3. Decoupling Exit STACERs from the RC Exams

Previously residents had to successfully pass 2 “Exit” STACERs before sitting for the RC exams. Now residents will be required to pass 1 COD STACER in the Fall/Winter of PGY4 and a second after their RC exam (after May).

4. Residents accepted into a subspecialty program will be required to pass (RC required) 2 COD STACERs in PGY4. This is because the general program cannot delegate COD training experiences to the subspecialty program.

Please note: At any time before the RC written exam, residents’ eligibility for the exam can be re-considered by the residency program – that is, if there are any significant performance or professionalism concerns. Should there be any concerns about a resident, a review will be conducted by the Psychiatry Competence Subcommittee (PCS) and a recommendation offered to the Psychiatry Residency Program Committee (PRPC) for consideration. A decision regarding a resident proceeding to or being withdrawn from the RC exam will be made by the PRPC.

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