



Association of International Medical Graduates of British Columbia

NAC Examination eligibility changes

Dear AIMGBC Members,

In light of the upcoming introduction of a flexible and internationally delivered Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part I in the spring of 2019, we are making several complementary eligibility changes to the National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) Examination that will support candidates, provide more flexibility and enhance fairness as we approach this transition in our assessments' evolution.

We will introduce the following eligibility requirements for the NAC Examination starting with the March 2018 session:

MCCEE will no longer be an eligibility requirement to apply to the NAC exam

International medical students and graduates will no longer be required to pass the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) to apply to the NAC Exam. Eligible candidates will be able to challenge the NAC Exam first – or the MCCEE – in the order that they prefer or even in the same month.

International medical students applying to the NAC exam

International medical students may take the NAC exam at the earliest within 12 months of their anticipated date of graduation. Previously, students could take the MCCEE within 20 months of their anticipated date of graduation, and if they passed that exam, they could then challenge the NAC exam in September of their final medical school year.

Since the NAC exam may now be the first assessment that international medical students challenge, instead of the MCCEE, the requirement of taking the NAC exam at the earliest within 12 months of the anticipated date of graduation was made explicit in the exam's regulations.

Retaking the exam

Candidates who obtain a pass (or fail) result on the NAC exam will be able to take it, up to a maximum of three times. Since 2015, candidates with a pass result could not retake the exam. The governance committee, the National Assessment Central Coordinating Committee (NAC3) has revisited this approach, given the competitive process candidates face when applying to residency.

Candidates retaking the exam will, however, have to skip a session before retaking it regardless of a pass or fail result. For example, a candidate taking the September 2018 NAC exam will be able to retake the exam, at the earliest, in September 2019, skipping the March 2019 session. This change will be applied moving forward starting with those taking the March 2018 session. Consequently, candidates taking the September 2017 exam will be able to retake it if they so choose in March 2018.

The new retake requirements apply to all candidates and allows for more opportunity for candidates to prepare for their next attempt. For more information on these changes, please see our NAC exam [Application and eligibility](#) web page.

Sincerely,
AIMGBC Board.