

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

**Guideline 1 —
Eligibility to Take Licensing Examination**

Eligibility for Taking Licensing Examination

1. Eligibility for taking the Licensing Examination is governed by section 7A of the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161 of the Laws of Hong Kong (“MRO”). An applicant must satisfy **ALL** the relevant requirements set out in section 7A of the MRO:

“ (1) *No person shall be eligible to take the Licensing Examination unless—*

(a) the person makes an application in that behalf to the Council and pays to the Registrar a prescribed fee for taking the Licensing Examination; and

*(b) the person satisfies the Council that the person is of **good character** and—*

*(i) that at the time of the application the person has satisfactorily completed **not less than 5 years full time medical training** of a type approved by the Council and is **the holder of a medical qualification** acceptable to the Council; or*

*(ii) as an alternative for a **Hong Kong permanent resident**—that the person **holds a medical qualification that is a recognized medical qualification** for the purposes of section 14C.*

*(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b)(i), the 5 years full time medical training shall **include a period of internship** as approved by the Council. ”*

Application

2. It is the applicant’s responsibility to satisfy the Medical Council (“the Council”) that he meets all the relevant requirements set out in section 7A of the MRO.
3. Documentary proof of the medical training and qualifications should be provided; and in case of application under section 7A(1)(b)(ii) of the MRO, documentary proof of identity as a permanent resident of Hong Kong should also be provided.

“Good Character” for the purpose of section 7A(1)(b) of the MRO

4. Applicants **must** be of good character befitting medical practitioners.
5. An applicant should provide 2 character references in the application form. The referees should be acceptable to the Credentials Sub-Committee of the Council. An applicant

who is unable to do so must provide detailed explanation. For appropriate cases, the Credentials Sub-Committee can exercise discretion to waive this requirement.

6. Certificate of Good Standing / Certification of Good Character:

- (a) An applicant who has been registered in any place as a medical practitioner should submit a certificate of good standing (original) issued by **each** registration/licensing authority **within 3 months** before the application, and a copy of the registration certificate/license if he/she is currently registered.
- (b) An applicant who has never been registered in any place should submit a certificate of good character (original) issued by the dean of the medical school or authorized person of the hospital in which he/she last received internship/residency training, testifying that he/she was of good character during internship/residency training.

7. The authority for approving the following applications is reserved for the Council, viz:

- (a) If an applicant has been convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment or found guilty of professional misconduct, the Credentials Sub-committee can reject and **not** approve his/her application. If the Credentials Sub-committee does not reject the application, it should make a recommendation to the Council.
- (b) If a candidate is convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment or found guilty of professional misconduct while attempting the Licensing Examination, the Chairman of the Credentials Sub-committee should inform the candidate that his/her eligibility to continue with the examination is suspended pending a decision by the Council. The Credentials Sub-committee should then make a recommendation to the Council.
- (c) If an applicant is facing criminal or disciplinary proceedings or there is other information indicating that he/she is not of good character, the Credentials Sub-committee should make a recommendation to the Council.

“Medical Training” for the purpose of section 7A(1)(b)(i) of the MRO

8. For the purpose of section 7A(1)(b)(i) of the MRO, the medical training leading to the award of a medical qualification acceptable to the Council must meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- (i) not less than 5 years in duration (i.e. an applicant is not eligible if he has completed less than 5 years of training for any reason, including exemption from part of the curriculum);
- (ii) full time in nature throughout all 5 years;
- (iii) of a type approved by the Council; and
- (iv) includes a period of full time internship resident in a hospital.

9. Interrupted medical studies should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

10. Applications from holders of Doctor of Osteopathy will be considered on a

case-by-case basis.

11. The candidate has a responsibility to inform the Licentiate Committee immediately of any changes which may affect his/her eligibility for taking the Licensing Examination.

Validity of Passes in Licensing Examination

12. A pass in Part I examination (Examination in Professional Knowledge) can be retained for 5 attempts in taking Part III examination (Clinical Examination) within 5 years. If the candidate does not pass Part III examination in up to 5 attempts within 5 years, he/she will have to take and pass Part I examination again before making further attempts to take Part III examination.
13. A pass in Part II examination (Proficiency Test in Medical English) can be retained for 5 attempts in taking Part III examination (Clinical Examination) within 5 years. If the candidate does not pass Part III examination in up to 5 attempts within 5 years, he/she will have to take and pass Part II examination again before making further attempts to take Part III examination.
14. A candidate who has passed 3 out of 4 subjects in Part III examination (Clinical Examination) in one go can retain those passes for 1 further attempt for the failed subject in either of the next two scheduled sittings. If he/she passes the failed subject in the said further attempt, he/she passes the Clinical Examination. If not, the validity of passes for the 3 subjects will lapse and he/she will have to take Part III examination for all 4 subjects again.

Sixth Attempts Only with Exceptional Approval

15. A candidate who has failed any of Part I, II and III examination for 5 times consecutively is prohibited from making further attempts in the Licensing Examination, unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying a 6th attempt.
16. Approval for a 6th attempt should be given only in exceptional circumstances. Application for such approval should be made during the application period for taking the relevant part(s) of the Licensing Examination.