

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

**Guidelines 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** requirements set out in section 7A of the MRO:-
 - " (1) *No person shall be eligible to take the Licensing Examination unless -*
 - (a) *he makes an application in that behalf to the Council and pays to the Registrar a prescribed fee for taking the Licensing Examination; and*
 - (b) *he satisfies the Council -*
 - (i) *that at the time of the application he 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; and***
 - (ii) *that he is of **good character.***
 - (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 that he meets all the requirements.
3. Documentary proof of the medical training and qualifications should be provided .

Medical Training

4. The medical training 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 Medical Council;
 - (iv) includes a period of full time internship resident in a hospital;
 - (v) leading to the award of a medical qualification acceptable to the Medical Council.
5. Interrupted medical studies should be considered on case-by-case basis.
6. Applications from holders of Doctor of Osteopathy will be considered on case-by-case basis.

Good Character

7. Applicants **must** be of good character befitting medical practitioners.
8. An applicant should provide 2 character references in the application form. The referees should be acceptable to the Credentials Sub-Committee. An applicant who is unable to do so must provide detailed explanation. In appropriate cases, the Credentials Sub-Committee can exercise discretion to waive this requirement.

9. 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.
10. The authority for approving the following applications is reserved to the Medical Council:-
- (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 but **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 Medical 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 Medical Council.
11. The candidate has a responsibility to inform the Licentiate Committee immediately of any change which may affect his/her eligibility for taking the Licensing Examination.

Validity of passes

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

Sixth attempt only with exceptional approval

15. A candidate who has failed any part 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 examination.

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Licentiate Committee

Medical Council of Hong Kong