

## **BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the pan-Canadian approach to licensure. In accordance with the College of Physical Therapists of BC (College) bylaws, the University of British Columbia, Department of Physical Therapy can administer an alternate evaluation. We have reached an agreement with UBC to offer an alternate evaluation in January 2022. The details are found below.

**FORMAT:** Virtual evaluation comprised of a minimum of 8 stations. The stations will include an equal mix of 10-minute stations and 5-minute stations spread over two days. Day 1: 10-minute stations. Day 2: 5-minute stations. A break will be included each day.

**CAPACITY:** Limited to 336 candidates. The cohort will be divided into two groups spread over two weekends to manage the volume.

**DATES:** First Evaluation Cohort: January 8 and 9, 2022.  
Second Evaluation Cohort: January 15 and 16, 2022.

**TIME:** The evaluation will run all day on both days. Candidates will be assigned a specific start time.

**FEE:** \$1250.00. The per candidate fee is based on the UBC cost to administer the evaluation.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** Interim registrants on the College register as of November 15, 2021 are eligible, but capacity is limited. Some eligible registrants will not be able to register based on capacity and priority.

**WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE:** There are two groups of interim registrants who are not eligible including:

- Interim registrants who have not completed, or have a pending result for, the Qualifying Examination (written examination) as of November 15, 2021.
- Interim registrants who are subject to any inquiry or discipline proceeding.
- Interim registrants not currently practising in BC.

**REGISTRATION PROCESS:** Based on priority, eligible candidates will receive notice that the registration process is open **beginning the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Each group will have up to one week to register before registration is open to the next group. As there is limited capacity it will be first come first served based on the priority groups. It is recommended that if you wish to register you do so within the first week after receiving notice.

*Example: Registration opens for Group 1 on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Group 1 can register anytime however Group 2's registration will open November 24<sup>th</sup> and so on.*

**Registration for all groups will close at noon on December 8, 2021.**

**PRIORITY GROUPS:**

1. Interim registrants on the register as of September 13, 2021, who have 6 months or more of supervised clinical practice in BC.
2. Interim registrants on the register as of September 13, 2021, who have less than 6 months of supervised clinical practice in BC.
3. Interim registrants added to the interim register between September 13 and November 15, 2021.
4. Interim registrants who are on the register and were unsuccessful on a previous clinical examination, either the PNE (clinical component) or the June 2021 UBC alternate evaluation.

**CONFIRMATION TO CANDIDATES:** Candidates will be informed of their confirmation of registration, their evaluation date and time the week of December 13, 2021. Further information about the assessment and what is needed on the day of the evaluation will be provided with the confirmation.

**Questions**

*What happens if I pass the alternate clinical evaluation?*

The College will follow usual procedures to change you to a full registration permit.

*What happens if I do not pass the alternate clinical evaluation?*

Your interim permit will not be cancelled. You and your supervisor(s) will be required to complete the Supervisor Toolkit online learning modules within two months of receiving the result.

*Who will decide if I pass or do not pass?*

UBC will provide the College with scoring. The College will use a psychometrician to assist with the final scoring prior to rendering a decision of pass or do not pass.

*When will I hear if I pass or do not pass?*

UBC and the College aim to have results confirmed by the end of January.

*Can I appeal the College decision?*

If you believe a calculation error has been made you may request re-scoring. As the results are checked many times errors are unlikely. Should a candidate request re-scoring there will be a fee applied that is refundable if an error is found.

*What if I need an accommodation?*

The format of the exam does not allow for accommodations. If you require special accommodation the College suggests you wait for another opportunity to complete a clinical assessment.

*What happens to my interim permit if I decide not to take the alternate clinical evaluation, even though I'm eligible for it?*

Your interim permit will be extended until further notice.

*What should I consider when making a decision about the alternate evaluation?*

The College strongly encourages you to consider several factors when making your decision about this alternate evaluation.

- a. Are you ready for it? Do you need more time to prepare?
- b. Is the virtual format suitable for you? You are responsible for ensuring that your physical space and technology meet the requirements.
- c. Do you have any plans to practise elsewhere in Canada? The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) is an intergovernmental trade agreement signed by all federal, provincial, and territorial governments. Chapter 7 of the CFTA addresses labour mobility and aims to enable any worker regulated in one province or territory to become regulated in another province or territory.

Each provincial and territorial government is responsible for implementing the CFTA within its jurisdiction. Disputes and compliance issues related to the CFTA are resolved between provincial or territorial governments, not between provincial regulatory bodies.

Historically, the PCE administered by CAPR has served as an important enabler of labour mobility as all Canadian jurisdictions other than Quebec have adopted the PCE as one of their registration requirements. With the alternate clinical evaluation, the College's registration requirements will differ from our historical registration requirements and from those used in other jurisdictions. As such, other jurisdictions may seek to impose barriers to labour mobility for those individuals wishing to register as full registrants in other jurisdictions. For example, a physical therapy regulator in another jurisdiction (through their provincial government) may argue that there is a material deficiency in skill, area of knowledge or ability of individuals who have gained full registration without passing the PNE.

The College does not believe that there are legitimate labour mobility issues; however, this is a risk that candidates must be willing to accept if they choose to register for the alternate clinical evaluation.

*If I register and then cannot attend the evaluation, will I receive a refund?*

No refunds will be granted.

*Can I change my date if something comes up and I cannot attend my allocated date and time?*

Change requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on availability. The College anticipates that most if not all evaluation spots will be filled.

*Who do I contact with questions?*

Chris Smerdon, Manager of Registration and Quality Assurance, at [csmerdon@cptbc.org](mailto:csmerdon@cptbc.org). The registration team will do their best to respond to specific individual questions. Otherwise, the College will update the website with frequently asked questions.

Candidates are asked **not** to contact UBC as this is a registration matter.