

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3)

Qualification number: 1886

Date of review: 28 October 2021

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2020**

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates of this qualification being able to:

- Work ethically and professionally as required by the pharmacy codes and standards;
- Communicate and interact with pharmacy team members and customers/patients to ensure the provision of appropriate customer service;
- Apply and work within all legislation relevant to their workplace;
- Safely determine if it is appropriate to provide pharmacy related products and services or advice to customers/patients and know when to refer to a pharmacist;
- Carry out a range of support activities within the pharmacy;
- Apply basic first aid; and
- Make accurate calculations and use appropriate information technology tools.

The agreed threshold statement replicates the graduate profile as set out in Version 1 of the qualification.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6022	The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand Ltd.	Sufficient
8661	NZ Management Academies Ltd.	Sufficient
7127	Kauri Academy	Sufficient

Introduction

This 40 credit qualification is designed as principally as an introductory qualification to pharmacy assistant or technician qualifications at Level 4 or beyond, although it does equip graduates to work in non-dispensary support roles within pharmacies.

Over the period 2017-2020, there have been a total of 419 graduates. A previous consistency review was undertaken in 2017 when national consistency was confirmed. However, the single provider involved in that review is no longer operating.

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Two of the current providers do not offer this qualification as a stand-alone programme of study. The Open Polytechnic offers the qualification as an exit qualification from its Level 4 programme, while the NZ Management Academies offer a combined programme leading to the concurrent award of Level 3, 4 and 5 Certificates. Programmes are either offered full- or part-time, pre-employment, in which case there is a significant work placement component, or they are undertaken through distance learning by students already employed in the industry.

The qualification was reviewed in 2020 with Version 2 published in October. The graduate profile of the revised version is very similar to that of Version 1. All graduates in this review have completed Version 1 of the qualification.

Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation;
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency; and
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Evidence considered, included programme design (including understanding of relevant legislation), moderation, graduate feedback and destination data, next-level tutor feedback as appropriate and feedback from the industry body.

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

Those organisations found sufficient were able to demonstrate good understanding of how their evidence contributed to a sound case for consistency. Evidence from different sources was well triangulated. In some cases, graduate response rates could be higher.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied by those organisations found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

Special Focus (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

None.

Examples of good practice

It was clear that all providers have a strong collegial relationship with the industry body, the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.

One provider gave a careful analysis of the relative strengths of each component of their evidence portfolio. This has provided the organisation with clear insights about how to further strengthen their evidence collection in the future.

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The same provider undertook a detailed comparison of feedback from graduates and that from next-level tutors on each GPO. They also unpacked student progression data by campus and year to give assurance of consistency across different teaching sites.

Issues and concerns

There are no general issues or concerns.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

None. As noted above, it is clear that the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand has strong working relationships with the programme teams of each provider and that the qualification is fit for purpose.

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