

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician-Advanced) (Level 5)

Qualification number: 1889

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:

- Communicate appropriately and interact effectively with other health care professionals and their staff.
- Apply an advanced level of knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and medicines used in the treatment of health disorders.
- Understand how medicines work and affect body systems.
- Apply critical thinking and problem solving processes to achieve appropriate solutions in advanced dispensing techniques and/or optimising patient outcomes.
- Manage inventory and facilitate supply arrangements as appropriate to the pharmacy and its specific community.

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 65 credit qualification is designed to provide the pharmacy sector with people who carry out a wide range of advanced pharmacy dispensing services and support the provision of safe, patient-centred healthcare, under the supervision of a pharmacist.

The qualification is generally offered by providers in a combined pre-employment programme which includes the Level 4 certificate (and in one case the Level 3 certificate

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also). These programmes have a high proportion of time allocated to work experience and clinical placements. Alternatively, one provider offers the qualification through a distance learning programme to students already employed within the pharmacy sector.

Between 2017 and 2020, there were 903 graduates of this qualification.

The last consistency review for this qualification was in 2017 when national consistency was confirmed. However, the single provider involved in that review is no longer operating.

The qualification was reviewed in 2020 with Version 2 published in October of that year. The Graduate profile of the revised version is substantially the same as that of Version 1. All graduates in this consistency 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 details of programme design, effective and systematic moderation practice, feedback from graduates about their achievement of the graduate profile and similar feedback from employers and 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, and providers are actively working to improve this. Where necessary, attention is being paid to ensure consistency across multiple delivery sites.

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.

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Examples of good practice

It is clear that all providers have good relationships with employers and, in particular, a strong and collegial relationship with the industry body, the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand. There is a clear sense of joint ownership of this qualification.

The qualification requires extensive supervised clinical practice and this is well organised by providers. Clinical placements often lead to employment within the same pharmacy.

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.

Providers are critically comparing feedback from graduates and employers about attainment of GPOs.

Issues and concerns

There are no issues or concerns.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

There are no recommendations.

As noted above, the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand has strong, constructive working relationships with the programme teams of each provider. Providers and the Society both work actively to ensure that the delivery of the qualification meets the needs of the retail and hospital pharmacists who employ these technicians.

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