



Ontario College
of Pharmacists
Putting patients first since 1871

CANDIDATE TOOLKIT FOR PACE

(Pharmacist Applicants)

Updated April 2026

Welcome to the PACE Candidate toolkit for pharmacist applicants. Embedded into this package are a number of resources to help you before you apply for PACE and throughout your PACE.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before you apply for PACE:

- Watch and listen to the [Introduction to PACE module](#) (5 minutes)
- Review the [Assessment Criteria](#) to understand what you are expected to be able to do
- Complete the online [Self assessment tool](#) to ensure you are ready for PACE

When you are **ready to apply** for PACE:

- Ensure that your certificate of registration as an intern is current and will not expire while you are completing PACE
- Ensure your personal professional liability insurance will not expire while you are completing PACE
- Log into your OCP account profile to apply
- Select a site and start date which must be no earlier than 2 weeks and no later than 8 weeks from the application date

After your PACE application has been accepted:

- Ensure your schedule is clear for the 4 weeks after your PACE start date, as **NO BREAKS** are permitted during PACE.
- Contact your assessor to confirm the location, start date and time. PACE will take place at your assessor's primary practice site which you had selected on your application
- Confirm with your assessor whether any mandatory e-learning or onboarding materials must be completed before orientation, and if pharmacy software resources can be shared in advance to help you prepare
- In addition to your Personal Professional Liability Insurance, obtain student accident insurance (sometimes called accidental death and dismemberment or AD&D insurance) if you are not employed by the organization where you are completing PACE. Unpaid PACE candidates are not covered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). OCP does not endorse any particular insurance carrier
- Please allow at least 10 business days for your PACE application to be processed



Tip: We strongly recommend that you register as an intern and practice in a pharmacy within your [scope of practice](#) before you apply for PACE.

ORIENTATION

The orientation phase of PACE occurs over one **full-time week (35 hours)**. The orientation week **cannot be shortened or extended**.

In preparation for the assessment, your assessor, or pharmacy staff members they delegate, will orient you to various aspects of the practice site to ensure that you are sufficiently prepared to engage in practice.



On your first day of orientation you must show your government issued ID to your assessor.

- Review the resources in the [PACE portal](#)
- Work through the [Orientation Checklist](#) with your assessor

On the final day of your orientation week you must submit the Declaration of Readiness for Assessment to indicate that you are ready to begin your PACE assessment. You will specify on the Declaration if you will be completing the 70 hour assessment over 2 or 3 weeks.

RESOURCES FOR ORIENTATION INCLUDE:

[PACE Portal Orientation Video for Candidates](#)

Tip: You should not engage in practice at your PACE practice site during the orientation phase. During orientation you will want to learn how to use the computer software and answer phones. You should also ask your assessor about their pharmacy processes and procedures.

ASSESSMENT

STEP 2

! During the assessment, you may only be in the pharmacy when your assessor is also working there. You will be expected to match your assessor's schedule and should make arrangements to ensure your availability before applying for PACE.

You may only practise under your assessor's direct supervision.

DURING THE ASSESSMENT

The duration of the assessment is **70 hours** which can be completed over the course of **2 or 3 weeks**, as arranged with your assessor during the orientation week and selected on the Declaration of Readiness for Assessment.

You will be assessed on your ability to safely and independently practise as a pharmacist in the [full scope of practice](#). Injection training and completing the OCP Mandatory Orientation for Minor Ailments Prescribing module is recommended, but not a mandatory requirement for PACE. As with any controlled act, you must ensure that you have adequate skills, training and competency to perform the act.

You should document and upload at least 2-3 practice opportunities per day in your journal. You **must** submit a total of 30 practice journal entries by the end of your assessment. Your practice journal should illustrate your practice performance in each of the following domains:

- Patient Care (10 journals required)
- Communication and Education (5 journals required)
- Professionalism (5 journals required)
- Professional Collaboration (5 journals required)
- Practice Management (5 journals required)

[Example Journal Entry 1](#)

[Example Journal Entry 2](#)

[Example Journal Entry 3](#)

[Example Journal Entry 4](#)

[Example Journal Entry 5](#)

AT THE END OF THE ASSESSMENT PERIOD:

- Submit the Candidate Confirmation of End of Assessment once you have submitted your 30 practice journal entries
- Your assessor will finish reviewing the practice journal entries and then submit the [assessment tool](#) in the PACE portal.
- Do not ask your assessor for feedback on your performance or about their chosen ratings.

DECISION MAKING

When you are making decisions during the assessment, the assessor may choose to step in as your decision may not follow the policy or process at this practice site. You will not be penalized for making a different 'customer service' decision, as long as patient care is not compromised.

OUTCOME

(WITHIN 2 WEEKS)



RESULTS

The College will advise you of your outcome via email.

The outcome will be either:

- Competence Demonstrated

You will have met the practice based registration requirement to become a pharmacist in Ontario.

OR

- Development Required

You will receive a performance profile that identifies the relative strengths and weaknesses in your competence. You will also receive information and support from College staff about the next steps in your registration process.

**Do not contact
your assessor to
discuss the results
of your PACE**

