

Pre-Entry Assessment Program (PEAP) and the Assessment Verification Period (AVP)

The PEAP and the AVP are assessments that are required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) for international medical graduates going into residency training programs. Both assessments require registration with the CPSO before commencement of the assessment period.

Definitions

PEAP

The Pre-entry Assessment Program (PEAP) is an assessment process that evaluates IMGs to determine whether they can function at their reported level of a Canadian trainee, in order to qualify to enter an Ontario residency/fellowship program. The majority of PEAP candidates are on a Visa and are expected to return to their country of origin following completion of postgraduate training.

AVP

The Assessment Verification Period (AVP) is an assessment process for IMGs who have been admitted into CaRMS entry residency positions or Advanced Level training positions recruited via CEHPEA (Centre for the Evaluation of Health Professionals Educated Abroad).

The purpose of the AVP is to ensure the IMG meets the competencies necessary to function at their designated training level. The AVP occurs concurrently with training and candidates will be exposed to the goals and objectives of the given specialty during the assessment period.

The major difference between the PEAP and the AVP is the duration: PEAP is 4 – 12 weeks and the AVP is 12 weeks. With respect to residency training the PEAP does not count towards residency and the AVP does. PEAP time does count towards fellowship training. (In keeping, the PEAP candidate does not pay PAIRO dues, while the AVP candidate does.)

Content

PEAP/AVP must:

- provide assessment of the candidate's clinical skills, knowledge and judgment in the discipline in which the candidate is seeking postgraduate education, as well as the candidate's basic skills in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and general surgery, appropriate for practice in the chosen discipline.
- provide assessment in respect of whether the candidate is: mentally competent to practise medicine; has the ability to practise with decency, integrity and honesty and in accordance with the law; has sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to engage in the kind of medical practice authorized by the certificate; and can communicate effectively and displays an appropriately professional attitude

Level of Practice

- Is supervised and is able to function at their reported level
- are able to sign their own orders, however, the supervisor may wish that orders initially be co-signed

Format

As the duration of the PEAP/AVP is different the timing of the assessments may vary.

PEAP	AVP
Candidate is assessed at the end of the 2 nd week. There may be an advantage to using an examiner from outside the discipline.	Candidate is assessed at the end of the 2 nd week. There may be an advantage to using an examiner from outside the discipline.
Candidate is assessed at the end of the 4 th week. At this point the PEAP can be signed off as successful or the assessment can continue up to a maximum of 12 weeks. Additional assessments can be arranged as deemed appropriate by the program.	Candidate is assessed at the end of the 8 th week and the 12 th week. The program director is responsible for summarizing the 3 evaluations onto the final CPSO AVP form.
An oral examination should be part of the assessment(s) to assess communication skills.	An oral examination should be part of the assessment(s) to assess communication skills.

Possible Outcomes

- **Successful:** After successful completion of a PEAP or AVP, the CPSO must be notified (with sign-off from the Postgraduate Dean) and the license will be converted to a Postgraduate Education Certificate of Registration.

Once the PEAP/AVP is completed the PEAP/AVP license is not valid. The candidate cannot work until the College has issued the Postgraduate Certificate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The normal turnaround time i.e., the time when the form is submitted to the College until when the licence is issued is usually about 2-3 days. (Forms can be submitted to PGMEO 2 – 3 days prior to the identified end date, to avoid turnaround time.) Be sure to that the date on the CPSO form is the final date of the AVP/PEAP licence and that forms are submitted to PGME before that date.

- **Unsuccessful:** the PEAP/AVP may be appealed based on due process only. Please refer to the Faculty Policy and Procedures on Appeals.

No repeat PEAPs/AVP's are allowed in the same discipline. There may be special consideration for AVP's who apply to enter at a lower level of training.

If the candidate is unsuccessful in the PEAP/AVP, s/he will not be permitted to continue on at the designated level of training.

There are Detailed Assessment forms available for internal use for both of these assessments. The Final Assessment form is completed and returned to the Postgraduate Medical Education Office for submission to the CPSO.

When the PEAP/AVP covers two separate rotations (which usually happens for the AVP as it is 12 weeks long), the Program Director is responsible for gathering and collating the information for the final CPSO AVP form.

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