

Guidelines for Royal College Exam Eligibility General Psychiatry Residency Program

Background and Purpose

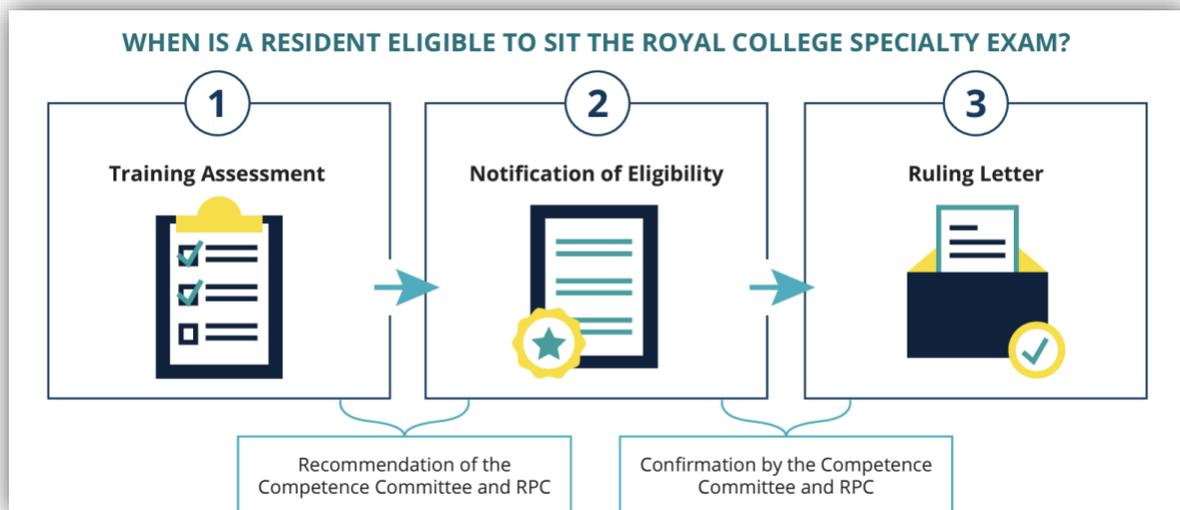
The General Psychiatry Residency Program is committed to supporting residents in completing Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS or RC in this document) requirements as an essential part of training, including the successful completion of the RC exam. RC examinations are offered annually for each specialty and subspecialty. The RC exam for Psychiatry occurs in the spring near the end of the Core of Discipline (COD) stage of training, typically when a resident is in PGY4 (postgraduate year 4) in the time-based model.

This document reviews the University of Toronto General Psychiatry Residency Program's guidelines for eligibility for the RC exam. Our aim is to meet RC requirements, maximize potential for resident success, and optimize learning and progress towards independent practice.

Please note – important timelines and exam information

There are a few important actions that must be taken in advance of the exam date to review a resident's eligibility to sit the exam:

- 1) The resident must apply to the RC approximately one year in advance of the exam for a training assessment to confirm they have met specialty-specific training requirements.
- 2) In approximately the fall prior to the exam, the residency program confirms to the RC that the resident has met the specialty-specific training requirements and is expected to be able to sit the exam.
- 3) The RC issues the resident a ruling letter, sent by the online credentials registration system, confirming that the resident meets the training requirements to register for the examination.



There are two parts to the RC Psychiatry Exam:

- 1) Written exam
- 2) Applied exam

Residents must meet minimum requirements to “pass” the written exam to be invited to sit for the applied exam. As such, 8 weeks separate the written and applied exam to allow for marking of exam and informing candidates of the written exam outcome.

Reference Documents

[CBD Technical Guide for Exam Readiness](#)

University of Toronto Requirements for RC exam eligibility:

1. Be in good academic standing with no performance or professionalism concerns. Residents must not be in formal or informal remediation at the time that exam eligibility is considered.

“Informal” remediation occurs when a resident is “not progressing as expected” and participating in an enhanced support plan as per the Resident Assessment and Support Subcommittee (RASC); “formal” remediation occurs when resident is participating in a support plan as per the Board of Examiners (BOE), Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Toronto.

2. Completion of the majority of the Core of Discipline (COD) requirements as per the RCPSC at the time that a resident sits for the RC Exam. This includes:

-successful completion of PGY3 rotations – Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Severe Mental Illness including attendance at core teaching associated for these rotations aligned with residency program expectations

-successful completion of the majority of PGY4 rotations (which are also COD requirements) by the time resident sits for written exam – Addictions, C-L Psychiatry, Underserved/Marginalized Populations selective (U/MPS) – in general, residents should be on their way to completing **at least 2 out of the 3 rotations** by the written exam date and have completed PGY4 joint Addictions and C-L Psychiatry core teaching which is delivered in July-December of PGY4

-completion of academic requirements including PGY3 Grand Rounds/Scholarly Presentation, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Case Report, and QI Assignment

-demonstrated progress on psychotherapy requirements including at least 40 hours of psychodynamic psychotherapy, completion of at least 1 case for structured therapy (CBT/IPT) with a second case in progress, and Family/Couples Therapy (at least 1 case)

3. Entrustments in COD EPAs (approximately >50%)

The May PCS will review how current PGY3s are progressing in COD EPAs while taking into consideration other assessment data. The benchmark provided is to support residents in planning their learning.

4. Decoupling Exit STACERs from the RC Exams

Previously residents had to successfully pass 2 “Exit” STACERs before sitting for the RC exams. Now residents will be required to pass 1 COD STACER by the Fall/Winter of PGY4 and a second after their RC exam (after May).

5. Residents accepted into a subspecialty program will be required to pass (RC required) 2 COD STACERs in PGY4. This is because the general program cannot delegate COD training experiences to the subspecialty program.

Please note:

At any time before the RC written exam, residents’ eligibility for the exam can be re-considered by the residency program – that is, if there are any significant performance or professionalism concerns. Should there be any concerns about a resident, a review will be conducted by the PCS/RASC and a recommendation proposed to the Psychiatry Residency Program Committee (PRPC) for consideration. A decision regarding a resident proceeding to or being withdrawn from the RC exam will be made by the Program Director with guidance from the PRPC. As per the RC Credentials office, a resident will receive a full refund for their RC Exam if they are withdrawn by the Program Director.

Residents can also appeal decisions of the PRPC via the residency program’s appeals process.

Prepared by: Assistant and Associate Program Director & Program Director, with PRPC input

Approved by PRPC: February 8, 2024

Date of next scheduled review: 2027