

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

Qualification number: 1889

Date of review: 28 August 2017

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National Consistency Confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates who are able to:

- Carry out a wide range of advanced pharmacy dispensing services under the supervision of a pharmacist.
- Support the provision of safe, patient-centred healthcare.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Final decision on sufficiency of TEOs evidence, will be updated as other TEOs show sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Intueri Education New Zealand Limited (Academy NZ)	Sufficient

Introduction

This qualification, of 65 credits, is designed to provide the pharmacy sector with people who have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours required to work in a range of dispensary related roles including those in community, hospital, industrial and educational settings in pharmacy.

Only one provider contributed to this review. The provider delivers a single, NZQA approved, programme of study which includes NZ Certificate in Pharmacy qualifications at levels, 3, 4 and 5. As there is no early exit point, all graduates reported had completed the whole programme and therefore all 3 qualifications. Graduate and employer surveys and feedback applied to all three qualifications although there were explicit survey questions to determine consistency at each level. (see following section)

The same 76 graduates were reported at each qualification level in 2016.

Evidence

The education organisation 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
- 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 provided included

- Confirmation that the education organisation had a coherent programme of study which included all three qualifications and ensured that programme components led to the graduate profiles. The provider's programme included work experience midway through the programme and an internship at the end.
- Internal and external post and pre-assessment moderation reports. The education organisation confirmed that they collaborated with other PTEs and the Pharmaceutical Society in assessment and moderation.
- Graduate and employer surveys which confirmed that graduates had gained, and were using, the skills and knowledge outlined in the graduate profile. At the end of the education organisations programme 30 students went directly into employment in pharmacies, with 58 employed in pharmacies within 3 months of the end of the programme. By the time of the review 8 months after graduation, 65 of the 76 graduates (85%) were in employment in a pharmacy; 3 were in further study, although not Pharmacy related; with the remaining 8 graduates either a fulltime parent or seeking employment.

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

The evidence presented before, and at the review meeting was sufficient to demonstrate that the graduates match the graduate outcomes. The evidence discussed above was strongly aligned with the graduate profile and clearly demonstrated that graduates meet the threshold.

In general, the quality of evidence presented was sound with a good mix of informal or anecdotal feedback and empirical evidence. The alignment of evidence with the graduate profile strengthened the consistency case.

Although the same set of graduates and employers were surveyed to establish consistency at Levels, 3, 4 and 5, they were asked to complete 3 separate survey components relating to each level of qualification within their programme. For instance, to determine consistency with the Level 5 graduate profile, the employer and graduate surveys asked for, and received, confirmation that graduates were 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.