



**GET THE
FACTS**



Acupuncture Regulations Series

PRACTICAL EXAMS



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Standards

AARE exams assess a candidate's competence to practice acupuncture safely and effectively as an "entry-level" professional.

Practical exams in other fields

Practical exams administered by a regulatory body are common in fields where the ability to perform specific hands-on tasks are a critical component to public safety. This is especially important when it comes to healthcare professions.

Alberta as a Model

Alberta is currently the only province that has practical exams for acupuncturists, and they have been refined over time. They are now used as a best practice model by other jurisdictions interested in implementing practical exams for acupuncturists.

The Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations (AARE) assess an applicant's knowledge to practice acupuncture safely and competently.

They are a critical component to protect the integrity of the profession and ensure the public is protected.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Every exam sitting, critical errors continue to occur. This means that, if performed on an actual patient, there would have been potential for serious public harm.

With that in mind, key reasons that practical, regulatory exams are critical include:

- **Standardization** - these exams establish a standardized benchmark to enter the acupuncture profession.
- **Quality assurance** - by setting standards for competence, these exams contribute to maintaining the quality of services provided by professionals.

- **Prevention of unqualified practice** - as a barrier to entry for unqualified individuals, it prevents them from practicing if they lack necessary skills and knowledge.

Because of these reasons, the AARE are crucial for achieving:

- **Public protection** - ensuring patients receive safe, competent, and ethical care.
- **Consumer confidence** - by maintaining the integrity of the profession, patients and their physicians can have confidence that acupuncturists have demonstrated a certain level of competence and expertise in order to hold a practice permit.