



Ordre  
des ingénieurs  
du Québec

EXAMINATION  
GUIDE



ADMISSION

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In accordance with the Regulation respecting standards for equivalence of diplomas and training for the issue of a permit by the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, candidates may be required to pass examinations in order to obtain equivalence of training.

We invite the candidates who have to take admission examinations to read this guide so that they clearly understand the requirements that they must meet as concerns their prescribed examination(s).

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE OIQ ADMISSION EXAMINATIONS

- 2.1 OIQ admission examinations are comparable in level to examinations in a Canadian Bachelor of Engineering degree program. There are three admission examination categories and each one covers different subjects.

### CATEGORY 1 :

These are the **basic engineering studies examinations**, or what are also known as common core examinations.

### CATEGORY 2 :

These are **engineering specialty examinations**, which cover the following disciplines: agricultural / bio-resource / biosystems / food engineering; chemical engineering; civil engineering; electrical engineering; environmental engineering; geological engineering; geomatics engineering; industrial engineering; computer engineering; software engineering; mechanical engineering; metallurgical engineering; mining and mineral processing engineering; physical engineering; building engineering and biomedical engineering.

### CATEGORY 3 :

These are **complementary engineering studies examinations**: engineering economics; management concepts for engineers; engineering in society.

- 2.2 It should be noted that the subject covered by each OIQ examination is generally broader, and at times much broader, than the subject covered by a university course.

- 2.3 The OIQ prescribes examinations known as **confirmatory examinations** to candidates whose undergraduate engineering diploma is not recognized by the OIQ. These examinations are designed to evaluate their knowledge and are generally category 2 and 3 examinations. But the OIQ may also include category 1 examinations, where necessary.

- 2.4 The Examiners Committee prescribes examinations known as **qualifying examinations** to candidates whose undergraduate diploma is not in engineering. These examinations are designed to evaluate their training and are generally category 1, 2 and 3 examinations.

## 3 EXAMINATION DATES AND LOCATION

OIQ examinations are held twice a year in Montreal during the first fifteen days of **May** and **November**.

## 4 REGISTERING FOR EXAMINATIONS

Candidates who plan to take the examinations must inform the OIQ's Admissions and Permits Department by no later than **March 15** for the May session and by no later than **September 15** for the November session. To do so, they must return the examination registration form that was sent to them, include their payment of the required registration fee, which is listed in the current fee schedule when they register, and specify whether they want to take the examinations in French or English.

For that reason, candidates should not wait too long to register for the examinations. They should also factor in the mailing time so that they can be sure that the OIQ does not receive their required documents too late and then reject their registration request as a result. The deadlines indicated above are the dates on which the form must be received by the OIQ secretariat.

## 5 NUMBER OF EXAMINATIONS ALLOWED

- 5.1 Candidates may take a maximum of three examinations per session. Nevertheless, we highly recommend that candidates not overestimate their abilities if they have not had enough time to thoroughly study and review the subjects of each examination.
- 5.2 When the Examiners Committee decides that candidates have failed too many examinations during a session, it may advise, or even require, those candidates to retake only one or two examinations at a time.

## 6 THE ORDER IN WHICH EXAMINATIONS MUST BE TAKEN

- 6.1 Candidates must take the category 1 examinations that are prescribed to them before taking the category 2 and 3 examinations.
- 6.2 Out of the category 1 examinations, the mathematics, probability and statistics, and discrete mathematics examinations must be taken before the other basic studies examinations. Candidates may take the examinations in each of these two groups in any order they choose.

- 6.3 Candidates may take category 2 and 3 examinations in the order that they choose, unless the Examiners Committee has specified a particular order.

## 7 DEADLINES FOR TAKING AND PASSING EXAMINATIONS

- 7.1 The deadline that is set for candidates to take and pass their prescribed examinations is determined as follows:

**They are granted one examination session for each of their prescribed examinations. Candidates who have to take only one examination are granted two consecutive examination sessions to do so.**

If there are less than 90 days between the date on which the examinations are prescribed and the date of the next examination session, the period of time will be calculated starting from the following session.

- 7.2 Candidates who are prescribed basic studies examinations (category 1) by the Examiners Committee must take those examinations first. For that purpose, candidates will be given an initial deadline to take only the **basic studies** examinations and then a second deadline to take the rest of the examinations (categories 2 and 3).
- 7.3 The Committee will automatically close the files of candidates who do not meet the deadlines set for them by the Committee. Candidates may eventually ask for their file to be reopened if they pay the required fee specified in the current fee schedule when they make their request. The fee schedule can be found on the OIQ Web site (see section 21 of this guide).
- 7.4 **In some exceptional cases**, the Committee may consider the possibility of granting an extension to candidates who have already passed certain examinations and requested an extension in writing. Extension requests must be sent to the secretary of the **Examiners Committee** and provide **satisfactory explanations and supporting documents** that convince the Committee that the candidates have valid reasons for requesting an extension. These requests must be sent along with the payment of the required file review fee.

## 8 EQUIVALENCE FOR UNIVERSITY COURSES

- 8.1 Candidates who have been prescribed confirmatory exams by the Committee may not replace these examinations with equivalent courses. In other words, they must take all of their examinations at the OIQ.
- 8.2 Candidates who have been prescribed **qualifying exams** by the Committee may replace some of these exams with equivalent courses given at engineering educational institutions in Québec, unless otherwise indicated by the Committee. To do so, they must contact the Admissions and Permits Department, which will send them a list of the undergraduate courses that are equivalent to the prescribed examinations.
- However, the OIQ does not guarantee that these courses will be offered when candidates want to take them or that candidates will be given permission by the institution to enrol in them.
- 8.3 If candidates plan to take courses that are not included on the OIQ's list of equivalent courses, they will first have to send a written request to the Committee that includes the descriptions of the courses they would like to take instead of the examinations.
- 8.4 **Candidates who choose to replace their prescribed qualifying examinations with equivalent courses have to take at least one of the category 1 or 2 examinations that were prescribed to them.** If the Committee decides that candidates have to take more than one OIQ examination, it will notify them of this in due course.
- 8.5 To obtain credit for an Engineering Economics course on the OIQ's list of equivalent courses, candidates must send an official transcript to the OIQ. **This transcript must be sent to the OIQ by the educational institution where the candidates took their course(s).**
- 8.6 To obtain credit for courses other than Engineering Economics that are equivalent to the examinations, candidates must send a written request to the Admissions and Permits Department and clearly specify the examination(s) and corresponding course(s) concerned. When candidates pass courses that are considered equivalent by the OIQ, they must not

only have the institution where they took the courses send an official transcript to the OIQ, but they must also pay the required file review fee.

## 9 PASSING GRADES AND RETAKES

- 9.1 The passing grade on OIQ examinations is 50%. The passing grade for university courses that are accepted as equivalent is a "C". A "C-" is not acceptable.
- 9.2 When candidates fail one or more examinations, they must retake the examination(s) before they may take a different examination, unless they are given special permission by the Examiners Committee.
- 9.3 When candidates fail the same examination for the third time, their file is automatically closed (see section 21).
- 9.4 When the Committee decides to close the files of candidates who have failed an examination for the third time, candidates may request that their file be reopened (see section 21) after they prove that they have advanced their engineering training in the field tested by the examination that they failed.

## 10 PREVIOUS EXAMINATION QUESTIONNAIRES

Candidates who are preparing for the exams can find the vast majority of previous examinations on the OIQ Web site.

## 11 EXAMINATION TYPE AND DURATION

All OIQ examinations are written examinations **that last three hours. Textbooks and personal notes are allowed during these examinations.**

## 12 CHEATING AND ATTEMPTED CHEATING

Candidates who are found guilty of cheating or attempted cheating on an examination will automatically fail the examination and their file will be closed. They may eventually request that their file be reopened, but not until one entire year has elapsed (see section 21). When candidates are found guilty of cheating or attempted cheating for the second time, their file will be definitively closed.

## 13 EXAMINATION RESULTS

- 13.1 Examination results are sent to candidates in writing **as soon as possible** after the end of each examination session. All requests for information about the results will not be answered until the results have been sent to candidates.
- 13.2 Examination results are expressed only in terms of “pass” or “fail,” which means that candidates have either obtained a passing grade or not.

## 14 EXAMINATION FEES

The examination fees must be paid when candidates register for an examination. These examination fees are listed in the fee schedule on the OIQ Web site.

## 15 EXAMINATION REVIEW

An examination review may be granted to candidates who have failed an examination and sent a written request to the OIQ no later than **one month** after the date on which the results were sent to them by the Admissions and Permits Department, on condition that they have paid the required examination review fee.

The examination review fees are listed in the fee schedule on the OIQ Web site.

## 16 REPEATED FAILURES ON THE EXAMINATIONS

When the Examiners Committee decides that candidates are failing a significant number of their prescribed examinations, it may review its previous decision and require candidates to take additional exams. It may also make any other decision that it deems appropriate, such as requiring candidates to take only one examination per examination session.

## 17 CHANGES IN THE EXAMINATION PROGRAM

- 17.1 Candidates who are prescribed examinations before a new examination program is released but have yet not begun to take their prescribed exams will have to follow the new examination program.
- 17.2 Candidates who have begun to take their prescribed examinations before a new examination program is released will have to follow the new examination program as soon as possible, i.e. starting with the examination session that follows the release of a new program. However, in the event that the transition from the old to the new examination program adversely affects candidates, they should consult the Admissions and Permits Department to find a fair solution, where possible.

## 18 DECISION REVIEWS

Candidates may request a review of a decision rendered by the Examiners Committee concerning their file. To do so, they must send a written request to the Admissions and Permits Department and include with it all relevant documents and the payment of the required file review fee.

## 19 PRESUMED WITHDRAWAL OF REVIEW REQUESTS

When candidates do not answer requests made by the OIQ concerning the content of their files or the various sections of this guide within a reasonable period of time, the OIQ may assume that they have withdrawn their request and then close their file without further notice (see section 21).

## 20 CHANGES IN THE ADDRESS OF DOMICILE

- 20.1** When candidates change domicile in Québec or elsewhere, they must immediately send written notification of this change to the Admissions and Permit Department.
- 20.2** Candidates who justify any violation of the rules set out in the Admission Examination Guide by citing a change of domicile that they failed to report to the OIQ will not be excused.


## 21 CLOSING FILES

- 21.1** Closing a file is equivalent to rejecting a candidate's permit application when the decision to close a file is based on one of the following sections of this guide: 7.3, 9.3, 12 and 19. As a result, when candidates request that **their file be reopened**, the OIQ will no longer be bound by the admissions conditions, standards or Admission Examination Guide that were in effect before their file was closed. The OIQ may reject the permit applications of candidates or prescribe new exams to them if the admission conditions, standards or Admission Examination Guide have changed since their file was closed, or if it decides that the rejection was appropriate for other reasons related to their file.
- 21.2** Candidates who want to request that **their file be reopened** must do so in writing, provide new documents if required by the Admissions and Permits Department, and pay the required fees listed in the current fee schedule on the OIQ Web site when they make their request.

Note : The OIQ reserves the right to change this guide without prior notice.

## ADMISSION EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

January		Deadline for requesting an <b>examination review</b>
February		
March	15	Deadline for <b>registering for the May session</b>
April		
May	1 to 15	<b>Examination sessions</b>
June	End of June	Examination <b>results</b> are mailed
July		Deadline for requesting an <b>examination review</b>
August		
September	15	Deadline for <b>registering for the November session</b>
October		
November	1 to 15	<b>Examination sessions</b>
December	End of December	Examination <b>results</b> are mailed



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