PART III PEPS
Blueprint & Content Outline

The blueprint specifies the major competency domains assessed by the Part III PEPS exam. The competency domains represent the related sets of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the safe and effective practice of optometry. The clinical presentation categories specify the topics of the case scenarios to be included in every version of the exam. The weights of the competency domains and clinical presentations specify the contribution of each of these elements to the exam results.

Competency Domains	Weight
Clinical Assessment and Interpretation	29
Management and Documentation	25
Skills	22
Patient Education	13
Communication	11
Total	100

Clinical Presentation Categories	Weight
Anterior Segment Disease	17
Posterior Segment Disease	16
Glaucoma	14
Systemic Disease	11
Refraction	11
Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease	9
Contact Lenses	8
Binocular Vision	8
Pediatrics	6
Total	100

Performance Skills Stations	Weight
Anterior Segment: • Biomicroscopy • Tonometry (applanation) • Gonioscopy (4-mirror)	*
Posterior Segment: • Fundus Biomicroscopy • Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy	*

*Performance skills stations are evaluated as part of the Skills Domain referenced in the table above.

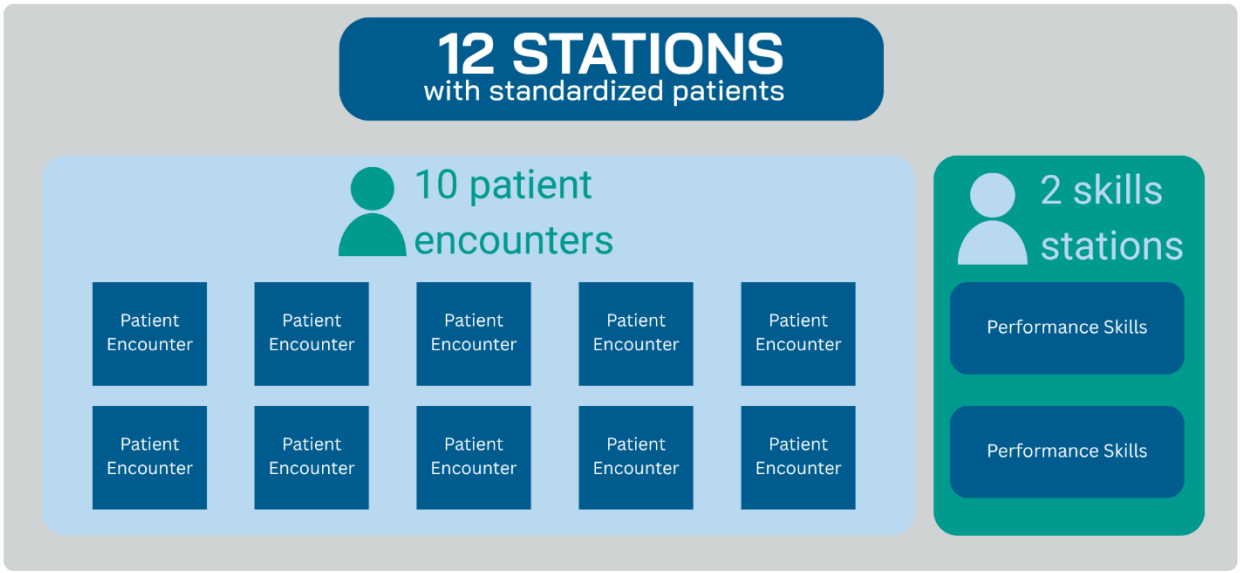
The blueprint includes five competency domains and nine clinical presentations assessed on the Part III PEPS exam. The domain that carries the most emphasis is Clinical Interpretation and Assessment (29%) followed by Management and Documentation (25%). These two domains are evaluated through the creation of an electronic SOAP note, which captures clinical decision-making and the generation of a treatment plan.

The Skills domain (22%) is evaluated through the physical performance of five skills on a standardized patient in skills-only stations and through taking focused patient histories in the patient encounter stations. Patient Education comprises 13% of the exam and the candidate is evaluated on the ability to provide information to the patient in a clear and understandable manner. Communication and Professionalism (11%) include treating the patient with respect, sharing, and receiving information in an effective manner, and collaborating with the patient and other professionals to provide optimal care for the patient.

The clinical presentation categories represent the major groups of diagnoses that an optometrist should be proficient in treating in order to protect the public. Both frequency and criticality were considered in the designation and weighting of the clinical presentations. Additionally, priority was given to those conditions that are life- or vision-threatening if not properly detected and managed.

EXAM MODEL

The exam model is the functional depiction of the exam and represents how the blueprint is operationalized. Although multiple versions of the exam are used, each version fulfills the requirements set forth in the blueprint. Each competency domain is addressed by multiple stations, and the clinical presentations serve as topics for the patient encounters.



The exam consists of twelve stations. At each of the twelve stations, candidates interact with a standardized patient. In ten of the stations, candidates are presented with a clinical scenario in which they are expected to perform a focused case history, interpret, and synthesize clinical data, and generate a management plan. Each candidate assesses patients with conditions that fall into the nine clinical presentation categories included in the blueprint: anterior segment disease, posterior segment disease, glaucoma, refraction, systemic disease, neuro-ophthalmic disease, contact lenses, binocular vision, and pediatrics. One of the ten stations is included for data collection purposes only; this station is also selected from the nine clinical categories but does not count towards candidate scores.

In the remaining two stations, the following skills are performed on a standardized patient:

Biomicroscopy
Gonioscopy (4-mirror)
Tonometry (applanation)
Dilated Biomicroscopy
Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy (BIO)