



# Dietitians Board Examination

## ORAL EXAMINATION

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The oral examination is a 90 minute examination and reflective debrief and must be sat in New Zealand

**Practitioners must pass the written examination to be eligible to sit the oral examination. Both the written and oral examinations must be passed within a three year period.**

The oral examination has been developed by the Dietitians Board of New Zealand in collaboration with the Universities of Otago, Massey and Auckland and is administered by the Dietitians Board of New Zealand. It is run similar to an **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)** often used in health sciences.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate sound:

- Counselling skills
- Nutritional care processes
- Cultural competence
- Health literacy

### Format of Oral Examination

The Oral Examination consists of reading time, role play(s), debriefing and self-critique. The expected length of time for this process is 90 minutes. An actor plays the role of the patient/client and there are two assessors present.

Each candidate is given time at the beginning of the assessment to study the Case Information for Candidates (referral letter and other patient/client information where provided). A typical day's dietary intake will also be provided in the case information as diet history taking is not included in the role-play. Additional information should be collected by the candidate when necessary (medical, social or dietary information).

The assessors will welcome the candidate, review the purpose of the oral examination, explain the procedures and answer any questions before the role-play begins.

At the conclusion of the "consultation(s)" the candidate will be provided with an opportunity to critique their performance, add any qualifying comments they would like to make and undertake a discussion around professional development. The candidate is asked what they feel they did well and what they feel they could have done better or need to improve on. This takes the form of an oral critique.

### Scope of Oral Examination

The oral examination is designed to assess verbal counselling skills, response to cues, critical thinking, insight and reflection in a dietetic counselling situation. The oral examination takes the form of a role play of a client counselling session where the client is presenting in response to a referral from another health practitioner.

In particular the oral examination will be assessing a candidate's ability to:

- Conduct nutrition assessments for infants, children, adolescents, adults and older people
- Analyse and interpret nutrition assessment data
- Demonstrate an evidence informed approach to practice
- Select, plan and implement patient/client centred nutrition care
- Prescribe and evaluate the use of special purpose foods including vitamin and mineral supplements for infants, children and adults
- Identify potential nutritional implications of alternative and complementary therapies
- Use an interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of nutrition care
- Comply with the legal requirements and procedures for clinical documentation
- Manage a continuum of nutrition care for individuals
- Conduct effective communication
- Facilitate effective nutrition counselling
- Demonstrate culturally appropriate practice and an understanding of Tikanga
- Demonstrate professionalism

Candidates must be able to:

- structure an interview
  - speak clearly and concisely and to use appropriate language
  - understand the problem from the client's point of view and respond to cues given by the client
  - explain relevant diet-disease relationships
  - prioritise the client's health problems and negotiate nutritional management goals with the client
  - give relevant, practical dietary advice that is accurate, correct, complete and easily understood by the client
  - encourage client to make any necessary diet changes
  - recommend an appropriate evaluation and follow-up plan
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