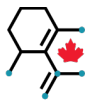




CAMLPR Field-of-Practice Examinations

August 2026



Overview

The CAMLPR examination should not be viewed as simply as a replacement version of the previous examination. The CAMLPR Field-of-Practice Examinations represent a fundamentally different assessment and registration model. The key distinction is that CAMLPR assesses competence at the individual Field-of-Practice level, rather than relying on a single aggregate result across multiple Fields.

This distinction is essential when interpreting pass rates. A higher proportion of unsuccessful individual examination results does not, on its own, demonstrate that the CAMLPR examination is excessively difficult or that the standard is inappropriate. It may reflect the greater visibility created by a model in which candidates must independently demonstrate the required cut score in each Field-of-Practice.

1. The Models Are Fundamentally Different

Under the previous MLT General examination model, content from five Fields-of-Practice was integrated into one comprehensive examination. Questions from Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Transfusion Medicine, Clinical Microbiology and Histology were interspersed, and the candidate's performance was ultimately considered within an overall examination result.

An aggregate model can allow stronger performance in some disciplines to offset weaker performance in another. Consequently, a candidate could potentially achieve an overall passing result even where performance in one individual Field-of-Practice was comparatively weak.

CAMLPR's model is intentionally different. Each Field-of-Practice is assessed separately and has an independent cut score; each Field-of-Practice Exam has its own cut-score. Performance in one Field cannot compensate for performance below the required standard in another. A candidate who meets the passing score in four Fields-of-Practice but not the fifth has demonstrated success in those four Fields and may seek registration to practice in those Fields, while continuing to study to be successful on the fifth.

Another important factor when interpreting examination performance is the difference in the cut scores established under the two examination models.

Published information for the previous national MLT examination indicates that the passing cut score was historically approximately 65%. In comparison, the cut scores established for CAMLPR's individual Field-of-Practice examinations currently range from approximately 70% to 75%.

2. A More Precise View of Competence

The CAMLPR model provides greater diagnostic precision. It answers a more specific regulatory question: in which Fields-of-Practice has the applicant demonstrated the required Entry-level competence?

This approach makes areas of strength and areas requiring further development visible. Under an aggregate examination, those distinctions may be obscured by the overall score. Accordingly, an increase in the number of recorded 'failures' at the individual examination level must be interpreted in the context of what is being measured: each Field-of-Practice is now a separate competency decision.

3. The Model Also Creates Greater Registration Flexibility

Separate Field-of-Practice examinations is not solely a more granular examination approach; it also supports a more Flexible Pathway to registration. Applicants may be able to seek registration to practise in a Field-of-Practice in which they have successfully demonstrated competence, subject to the requirements of the applicable provincial regulator.

Under the previous general examination approach, the outcome was effectively all or nothing for the combined examination. A candidate who was unsuccessful overall did not receive independent successful examination outcomes for the individual Fields in which they may have performed well.

Under the CAMLPR approach, success is preserved at the Field-of-Practice level. An applicant does not have to repeat areas in which competence has already been demonstrated. This aligns the examination outcome more closely with the applicant's demonstrated competencies and with Flexible Pathways to Registration.

4. Why Pass-Rate Comparisons Require Caution

Historical pass rates and current CAMLPR pass rates are not directly comparable without accounting for the structural differences between the examinations. Comparing the percentages alone risks treating two different examination constructs as though they measure success in the same way.

Dimension	Previous Model	CAMLPR Model
Examination structure	Integrated examination across five Fields-of-Practice	Separate examination for each Field-of-Practice
Outcome	Overall examination result	Independent pass/fail result by Field-of-Practice
Compensation across fields	Stronger areas could contribute to the overall result	One field cannot offset performance below standard in another
Visibility of gaps	Individual weaknesses may be less visible in an aggregate result	Competency gaps are identifiable by Field-of-Practice
Registration implications	Combined examination outcome was effectively all or nothing	Successful Field-of-Practice exam results can support Field-of-Practice registration

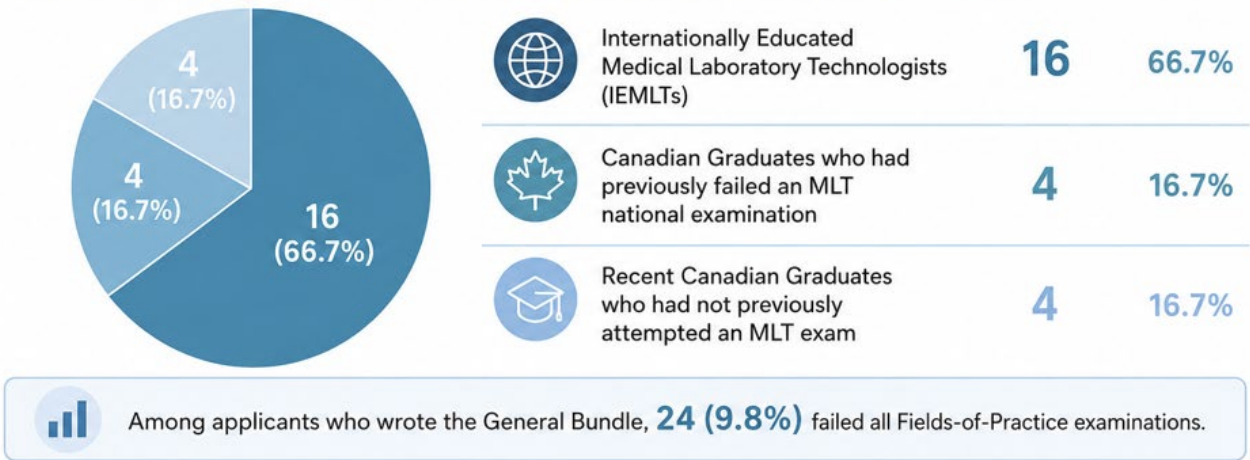
5. Context of the Current Candidate Cohort

Test taker outcomes should also be interpreted in light of the composition and prior experience of the cohort. For the June 2026 Exam, 246 applicants wrote the General Bundle. Of these, 24 applicants failed all Fields-of-Practice examinations within the General Bundle. In the 24-candidate group reviewed, 16 candidates (66.7%) were internationally educated medical laboratory technologists (IEMLTs), 4 (16.7%) were Canadian graduates who had previously failed an MLT national examination, and only 4 (16.7%) were recent Canadian graduates, that had not previously attempted an MLT exam. All other recent Canadian graduates successfully met the cut score in at least one Field-of-Practice examination.

GENERAL BUNDLE EXAMINATION RESULTS OVERVIEW



PROFILE OF 24 APPLICANTS WHO FAILED ALL FIELDS-OF-PRACTICE EXAMINATIONS



6. Summary

The CAMLPR examination model represents a shift from an aggregate, all-or-nothing assessment toward a Field-of-Practice demonstration of competence. Candidates are required to meet the established standard independently in each Field of Practice, which means that stronger performance in one discipline cannot compensate for a competency gap in another. This may result in a different pattern of pass and failure outcomes than was observed under the previous model, and direct comparisons between the two systems must therefore be made cautiously. At the same time, the CAMLPR model provides greater precision and flexibility: successful results are recognized at the individual Field-of-Practice level, allowing applicants to pursue registration in fields in which they have demonstrated competence, subject to provincial regulatory requirements. The result is an assessment framework that provides regulators, applicants and the public with a clearer picture of where competence has been demonstrated.