



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Required for a Summative Evaluation?

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**1. What is meant by a summative comprehensive final evaluation?**

CAAHEP Standard IV.A.1: "Achievement of the program competencies required for graduation must be assessed by criterion-referenced, summative, comprehensive final evaluations in all learning domains at the completion of the program".

**2. What is meant by the three domains?**

Cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains.

**3. What is the interpretation of summative?**

Summative program evaluation occurs when the **capstone field internship** is **at or near completion**.

**4. Why is the timing *at or near completion* of the capstone field internship?**

Some latitude is provided, recognizing that not all students complete the capstone field internship rotations at the same time, and the program may want to schedule one session to administer the final testing. Some students may not have completed all the required hours or team leads, but the program wants to administer the final cognitive exam on a given day.

**5. Our program does final testing before students go to the capstone. Is this acceptable?**

You may administer any series of testing/evaluation before the capstone field internship to verify competency to proceed, however, this does not take the place of the required summative, comprehensive final evaluations in all learning domains at or near completion of the capstone field internship.

**6. What is the purpose of another test at the end of the capstone field internship? We have been evaluating the students throughout the program.**

This summative evaluation is a final 'check' to verify consolidation of knowledge and serves as an exit to the program, in addition to other established requirements.

**7. What should be included in the cognitive evaluation?**

The program determines the length, breadth, and depth of the cognitive (knowledge) examination; the exam should cover the important clinical information relevant to the provider level (AEMT or Paramedic).

**8. Our clinical and capstone field internship student evaluation forms include ratings for some affective behaviors. Is this enough?**

Typically, no. Clinical and capstone field internship forms only provide feedback in a relatively few areas.

**9. What is a good tool to use for a comprehensive affective evaluation?**

The program can use any tool. The CoAEMSP Resource Library has a sample *Affective Behavior Evaluation* tool that includes 12 dimensions and has a rating scale of good, fair, or needs improvement. The CAAHEP *Standards* also require that students be evaluated throughout the program, and the same tool can be used for this evaluation and feedback to the student.

**10. What is considered a summative psychomotor evaluation?**

With the operationalization of the CoAEMSP 2023 Student Minimum Competency Recommendations (SMC), meeting all the program-established minimum competency requirements **will now be evidence** of a comprehensive final evaluation in the psychomotor domain.

**11. What changed? We were required to have students complete practical stations or an out-of-hospital scenario.**

With the adoption of the CoAEMSP 2023 Student Minimum Competency Recommendations (SMC), the evaluation process has evolved. Throughout the program, students have progressed through formative and then summative skill acquisition. As noted in the SMC document, "reasonable evidence of competency is built on the concept that competent performance must be demonstrated over time in a variety of conditions."

**12. Can our program still conduct a psychomotor skills evaluation or an out-of-hospital scenario?  
Can we do an oral board with the medical director?**

**Can we ask the capstone field internship preceptor to do a final sign-off on the student?**

Yes, to all the above. The program can choose to continue any of these evaluation processes. However, these methods **are no longer** required by CoAEMSP to show evidence of meeting the accreditation standard.

**13. Is there another reason we may need to continue some type of psychomotor evaluation in our program?**

Some states or other regulatory authorities may still require a form of psychomotor evaluation. Check with your state and local authorities.