



EDUCATION AND FIELDWORK

Internationally Educated Applicants: Education Equivalency

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Established: July 1998

Revised: July 2001, January 2002, March 2003, May 2003, November 2007, May 2009

Most recent revision: October 2011

Applicable Categories of Registration:

1. General Practising Certificate
2. Provisional Practising Certificate
3. Temporary Practising Certificate

Type of Requirement: Non-exemptible

Applicable Regulation: General and Temporary Certificate

36 (1) The following are non-exemptible registration requirements for a general practising certificate of registration:

- i. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario or an academic qualification considered equivalent by the Registration Committee, or;
- ii. A diploma in Occupational Therapy granted not later than 1973 by the University of Toronto or a diploma in Occupational Therapy granted not later than 1968 by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.

- (2) The applicant must have completed a minimum of 1000 hours of fieldwork or clinical practicum accepted by the Registration Committee.

Provisional Certificate

37 (1) The following are non-exemptible registration requirements for a provisional practising certificate of registration:

- i) A Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario or an academic qualification considered equivalent by the Registration Committee, or be found by the Registration Committee to require minimal educational upgrading to achieve an equivalent status, or
- ii) A diploma in Occupational Therapy granted not later than 1973 by the University of Toronto or a diploma in Occupational Therapy granted not later than 1968 by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.

For the purposes of subparagraphs 36(1) i) and 37(1) i), an academic qualification is not equivalent unless,



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- a) the curriculum includes courses within the basic sciences, the behavioural sciences, the clinical sciences, the managerial sciences and occupational therapy theory, practice and field work; and
- b) the nature, extent and scope of those courses are substantially equivalent to a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario.

Principle(s):

Successful completion of an Occupational Therapy program considered equivalent to an Ontario Occupational Therapy degree provides evidence that applicants possess the required competencies to provide the public with safe, effective and ethical care.

Decision Criteria

An applicant who has graduated from an international occupational therapy program may meet the requirement by:

1. Having an original document-by-document credential assessment report sent directly as a hard-copy from an approved credentialing agency to the College.

The report must indicate that the program completed:

- a. was an accredited program; and
- b. that it was, at minimum, a three-year Bachelor degree; and
- c. that the focus of the program was Occupational Therapy.

The assessment must be completed by a College-approved credentialing agency (e.g. World Education Services) or another credentialing agency in Canada that is a member of the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC).

AND

2. Providing a copy of a transcript attesting that the applicant has successfully completed an occupational therapy program.
3. The OT program completed must have been reviewed and approved as substantially equivalent by the Registration Committee³.
4. The applicant may qualify for a provisional certificate if the Registration Committee determines that s/he requires minimal educational upgrading to achieve an equivalent status.

³ The Registration Committee of the College has reviewed and approved a number of university occupational therapy programs outside of Canada and maintains a list of approved programs. As programs continue to be reviewed and approved through the Academic Equivalency Review process, they are added to the list of approved programs. The Registration Committee reserves the right to remove a program from the list if new information suggests that the program has materially changed or that an earlier review was based on inaccurate information or otherwise made in error.



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Possible Outcomes

1. An applicant who provides an approved credential assessment report that indicates that the program completed was an accredited, minimum 3-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in Occupational Therapy and the program has been approved as substantially equivalent by the College will be deemed to have met the education and fieldwork requirement.
2. An applicant who provides an approved credential assessment report but the program was evaluated as equivalent to less than a three-year Bachelor degree may be asked to submit further information so that the Registration Committee can complete an Academic Equivalency Review.
3. An applicant who provides an approved credential assessment report that indicates that the program completed was an accredited, minimum 3-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in Occupational Therapy but the program has not yet been approved as substantially equivalent by the College, may be asked to submit further information so that the Registration Committee can complete an Academic Equivalency Review.
4. An applicant who provides an approved credential assessment report but the focus of the program was not Occupational Therapy may be asked to submit further information so that the Registration Committee can complete an Academic Equivalency Review.
5. An applicant who provides an approved credential assessment report that indicates that the program completed was not completed at a comparable educational institution (e.g., not a minimum of three years, not in occupational therapy) will be deemed to have not met the education and fieldwork requirement.