



EDUCATION AND FIELDWORK

Academic Equivalency Review

8-30

Page 1 of 3

Established: July 1998

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

Most recent revision: May 2009

Applicable Categories of Registration:

1. General Practising Certificate
2. Provisional Practising Certificate
3. Temporary 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 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.
- (2) The applicant must have completed a minimum of 1000 hours of fieldwork or clinical practicum accepted by the Registration Committee.

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

- i. 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
- ii. the nature, extent and scope of those courses are substantially equivalent to a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario.



EDUCATION AND FIELDWORK

Academic Equivalency Review

8-30

Page 2 of 3

Principles(s):

Successful completion of an occupational therapy program, or education and fieldwork completed in more than one 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.

The College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario - Academic Review Tool, v1.2008, (ART) provides an effective way for applicants to demonstrate to the Registration Committee that they have completed education and fieldwork outside of Canada that is equivalent to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario. The curriculum of Ontario programs reflect the Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada, 2nd Edition, (2003), which is the framework used to complete the curriculum comparison.

Decision Rule:

1. Applicants educated outside of Canada must provide documentary evidence satisfactory to the Registration Committee, which demonstrates that the education and fieldwork they have completed outside of Canada is substantially equivalent to the entry to practise requirements in Ontario. In order for a program, or education and fieldwork completed in more than one program, to be considered equivalent:
 - a. the curriculum must include courses that the Registration Committee deems to fall within the basic sciences, behavioural sciences, clinical sciences, managerial sciences and occupational therapy theory, practice and fieldwork; and
 - b. the Registration Committee must be satisfied that the nature, extent and scope of those courses can be compared to the Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada, 2nd Edition (2003) in such a way that they provide evidence of substantial equivalency to a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario.

An applicant may meet the requirement by:

1. Providing:
 - a. a completed Academic Review Tool
 - b. copies of the complete course descriptions*/copies of the program syllabus*
 - c. official transcript(s)*

that, upon review by the Registration Committee, are considered equivalent to an Ontario Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy.

* Course descriptions, syllabus and transcript must be provided as notarized English translations, paid for by the applicant, if the original documents are not in French or English.

Please note that applicants may provide information from more than one educational program.



EDUCATION AND FIELDWORK

Academic Equivalency Review

8-30

Page 3 of 3

Possible Outcomes

1. Program is assessed as substantially equivalent – Sufficient information has been provided to satisfy the Registration Committee that the applicant's program includes the required essential competencies as described in the ART. The applicant will be deemed to have met the education and fieldwork requirement of registration and, if the comparison was of a single program, the program will be added to the list of approved OT education programs⁴.
2. Education and Fieldwork is assessed as substantially equivalent. Sufficient information has been provided, in the form of course descriptions, syllabus, etc., from more than one educational program, to satisfy the Registration Committee that the applicant has completed education and fieldwork that includes the required essential competencies as described in the ART. The applicant will be deemed to have met the education and fieldwork requirement of registration.
3. Program or education and fieldwork completed is assessed as not substantially equivalent – The Committee has found discrepancies and competency gaps between the College's requirements, as described in the ART, and the documentation submitted by the applicant. Where the Registration Committee has determined that the program or education and fieldwork completed by the applicant cannot be considered equivalent to an Ontario program, the applicant will be deemed to have not met the education and fieldwork requirement.

The Registration Committee will provide to the applicant an explanation of how the determination was made. The applicant will be provided with information regarding available resources (if applicable) to upgrade education and fieldwork and the process for re-application and advised of his/her right to appeal the decision to the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board.

4. Decision could not be rendered – Based on the information presented, the Registration Committee could not make a determination regarding equivalency of the applicant's program. The Registration Committee will request that the applicant provide additional evidence, such as information from textbooks, course outlines, academic reference, credible references from other sources. Upon receipt of additional information, the Registration Committee will reconvene to determine if the new information is sufficient for a decision to be rendered.