



## LANGUAGE FLUENCY

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### Language Fluency Requirement

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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:** Exemptible

**Applicable Regulation**

35 (1) The following are registration requirements for a certificate of registration of any class:

5. The applicant must be able to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency.

**Principle(s):**

Effective communication is one of the key essential competencies of practice in occupational therapy and is critical for the delivery of safe and effective, quality care. For these reasons the Registration Committee believes that applicants must provide persuasive, objective evidence of language fluency in English or French.

**Decision Criteria**

An applicant may meet the requirement by:

1. Providing a signed declaration that his or her first language is English or French and confirming that he or she can speak and write English or French with reasonable fluency; or
2. Providing verification in the form of a signed letter sent directly from the educational institution where his/her occupational therapy program was completed to the College as a hard-copy original document, fax or PDF that the language of instruction was English or French; or
3. Providing verification from the accredited credential assessment agency that completed their assessment, that the language of instruction was English or French. This should be sent directly from the agency to the College as a hard-copy original document, fax or PDF; or
4. Providing evidence, directly from the language testing agency to the College, as a hard-copy original document or a fax, that she or he has achieved the minimum score indicated below on one of the College approved language fluency tests (indicated in the following table).

The Committee has the discretion, under exceptional circumstances, to grant registration with Terms, Conditions and / or Limitations (TCLs).



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Test	Details	Minimum Score	
1a) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	i) Internet Based Test (IBT)	Speaking	26/30
		Writing	22/30
		Reading	22/30
		Listening	22/30
		Overall score	92/120
1b) TOEFL	i) Computer Based Test (CBT)	230 <sup>5</sup>	
	ii) Paper Based Test (PBT)	580	
1b) Test of Spoken English (TSE)	Oral test (in conjunction with TOEFL CBT and PBT)	50	
2) Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	Written component of test	85 <sup>6</sup>	
	Oral component of test	4 <sup>7</sup>	
3) International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Written component of test (overall band)	7.5	
	Oral test	7.5	
4. TestCan	Test of French language fluency	5 on each section	

#### Possible Outcomes:

1. An applicant who can provide sufficient evidence of fluency will be deemed to have met the Language Fluency requirement.
2. An applicant who cannot provide sufficient evidence of fluency will:
  - a) Be notified that he/she cannot be registered until he/she has met this requirement; or
  - b) If he/she has met all other requirements, under exceptional circumstances may be granted a

<sup>5</sup> Standard error of measure is +/- 15 points; therefore minimum acceptable score is 215.

<sup>6</sup> Standard error of measure is +/- 3 points; therefore the minimum acceptable score is 82.

<sup>7</sup> Applicant may only register for MELAB oral test if he/she has completed the written test.



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temporary exemption from the requirement and have Terms, Conditions, and / or Limitations (TCLs) placed on the Certificate. This decision is at the discretion of the Registration Committee and may be granted to an applicant who has demonstrated a degree of fluency that would, with supervision, provide adequate safeguarding of public safety and effective care.

The TCLs may include but are not limited to:

- a. Requiring the registrant to disclose to all potential employers that he/she has not yet met the College's fluency requirement; and/or
- b. Imposing conditions for supervision (e.g. written documentation, verbal communication); and / or
- c. Imposing limitations regarding practice settings or controlled acts.

Once the registrant has met the language fluency requirement, the TCLs will be lifted.

If the registrant does not pass the required language test by the date stipulated, his or her Certificate of Registration will expire.

The individual has the option to apply again for a Certificate of Registration.

*See Policy 8.5.1 – Request for Exemption from Language Fluency Requirement.*