



## Education and Fieldwork

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### Internationally Educated Applicants: Education Equivalency

**8-21**

**Established:** March 2015

**Effective:** May 1, 2015

**Revised:** February 2016, September 2016

**Most recent revision:** March 2018

**Applicable Category of Registration:**

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

**Type of Requirement:** Non-exemptible

**Applicable Regulation:** Ontario Regulation 226/96: General, under the *Occupational Therapy Act, 1991*

### General and Temporary Certificate of Registration

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

1. The applicant must have,
  - i. a Bachelor of Science degree or Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario,
  - ii. an academic qualification considered by the Registration Committee to be equivalent to a degree described in subparagraph i, or
  - iii. 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 1,000 hours of fieldwork or clinical practicum accepted by the Registration Committee.

### Provisional Certificate of Registration

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

1. The applicant must satisfy any of the following:



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- i. He or she has a Bachelor of Science degree or Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy obtained in Ontario.
  - ii. He or she has an academic qualification considered by the Registration Committee to be equivalent to a degree described in subparagraph i.
  - iii. He or she has been found by the Registration Committee to require minimal educational upgrading to achieve the equivalent of a degree described in subparagraph i.
  - iv. He or she has 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.

37 (2) For the purposes of subparagraph 1. ii of subsection (1), an academic qualification is not equivalent unless,

- 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 or Master 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.

#### **General and Provisional Certificates:**

As of May 1, 2015, all applicants applying for a general or provisional certificate of registration, who have graduated from an occupational therapy program outside of Canada will be required to complete the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS) as the first step in the registration process in Ontario. Applicants currently registered elsewhere in Canada who are applying via the labour mobility provisions and applicants who previously held a



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general practising certificate of registration issued by the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario are not required to complete SEAS. The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO - <http://www.acotro-acore.org>) administers SEAS as a third-party service provider to the College.

SEAS is comprised of assessment components that are used to determine whether an internationally-educated occupational therapist's (IEOT's) educational qualifications and competencies are substantially equivalent to those of a Canadian educated occupational therapist (including Ontario).

#### **Decision Criteria:**

An applicant who has graduated from an international occupational therapy program may meet the education and fieldwork requirement by completing SEAS and receiving a Disposition Report that indicates that his/her educational qualifications and competencies are substantially equivalent to those of a Canadian educated (including Ontario) occupational therapist.

The Disposition Report will include results in the following criteria areas:

1. Academic Credential Assessment: World Education Services Academic Credential Assessment Report
2. Profession-Specific Credential Assessment: Fieldwork Hours
3. Profession-Specific Credential Assessment: Curriculum Review
4. Language Readiness Assessment
5. Jurisprudence Knowledge Assessment Test (JKAT)
6. Competency Assessment

#### **Possible Outcomes:**

1. An applicant whose SEAS Disposition Report indicates that his/her educational qualifications and competencies are substantially equivalent to those of a Canadian educated occupational therapist will be deemed to have met the education and fieldwork requirement.



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2. An applicant whose SEAS Disposition Report indicates that his/her educational qualifications and competencies are not substantially equivalent to those of a Canadian educated occupational therapist or has not achieved the pass score on the JKAT will have his/her application referred to the Registration Committee.

The Registration Committee will consider the results indicated in the SEAS Disposition Report on an individual basis and will provide a letter of direction and decision to the applicant.

Directions and decisions available under the *Health Professions Procedural Code*:

- i. issuing a certificate of registration;
- ii. issuing a certificate of registration if the applicant successfully completes required examinations;
- iii. issuing a certificate of registration if the applicant successfully completes additional specified training;
- iv. issuing a certificate of registration with terms, conditions or limitations; or
- v. refusing to issue a certificate of registration.

### Temporary Certificates of Registration

#### Decision Criteria:

Applicants applying to the College for a temporary certificate of registration will be required to demonstrate that they hold a valid certificate of registration as an occupational therapist in another jurisdiction with education and clinical requirements equivalent to those of the College. Due to the short-term nature of these certificates, and the condition of supervised practice, applicants for temporary certificates are not required to complete the SEAS process.

An applicant who has graduated from an international occupational therapy program may meet



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the requirement by:

1. Providing an original World Education Services (WES) credential assessment indicating that the program completed:
  - a. was an accredited program;
  - b. that it was, at minimum, a three-year Bachelor degree; and
  - c. that the focus of the program was Occupational Therapy.

AND

2. Providing a copy of a transcript attesting that the applicant has successfully completed an occupational therapy program.

#### **Possible Outcomes:**

1. An applicant who provides a WES credential assessment report that indicates that the program completed was an accredited, minimum three-year bachelor degree with a focus in Occupational Therapy and the program was approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) during the time the applicant attended will be deemed to have met the education and fieldwork requirement for a temporary certificate of registration.
2. An applicant who provides a WES credential assessment report but the program was evaluated as equivalent to less than a three-year bachelor degree and/or not focused in Occupational Therapy and/or not approved by WFOT will be deemed to have not met the education and fieldwork requirement for a temporary certificate of registration.

Direction and decisions may include, those available under the *Health Professions Procedural Code*:

- i. issuing a certificate of registration;
- ii. issuing a certificate of registration if the applicant successfully completes required examinations;



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- iii. issuing a certificate of registration if the applicant successfully completes additional specified training;
- iv. issuing a certificate of registration with terms, conditions or limitations; or
- v. refusing to issue a certificate of registration.

NOTE: Applicants who have been deemed to meet the education and fieldwork requirement for a temporary certificate of registration will be required to complete the SEAS process should they wish, at some point in the future, to apply for a general or provisional certificate of registration.

Occupational therapists holding temporary registration are not eligible to apply to other provinces via labour mobility provisions.