



LANGUAGE FLUENCY

Language Fluency Requirement

8-81

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Established: March 2015

Effective: May 1, 2015

Applicable Categories of Registration:

1. General Practising Certificate
2. Provisional Practising Certificate
3. Temporary 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 as follows:

1. Canadian-educated applicants will meet the language fluency requirement by providing evidence to the College of having completed an accredited Occupational Therapy program in Canada.
2. Applicants who have completed their Occupational Therapy education outside of Canada will meet the requirement by providing verification of language fluency as part of the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS) assessment completed by the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO). The SEAS Disposition Report, provided to the applicant as a result of the assessment, will indicate how an applicant has provided verification of language fluency. The ACOTRO language fluency policy is consistent with the College's requirements.

ACOTRO Language Fluency Requirement

The following is provided for information only - internationally-educated applicants must provide evidence of language directly to ACOTRO as part of the SEAS assessment. Such applicants should not forward evidence or scores directly to the College.

As part of the SEAS assessment, English or French language proficiency can be met by three means:

- (a) Declaration by the applicant that English or French was the language of instruction at a primary and secondary school level in Canada;
- (b) Confirmation that the language of Occupational Therapy instruction (including theoretical and clinical components) was in English or French; or
- (c) Completion with required minimum scores of an acceptable standardized language test.



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Acceptable tests and scores are as follows:

Test	Details	Minimum Score
1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Speaking	26
	Listening	22
	Reading	22
	Writing	22
	Overall score	92
2. International English Language Testing System Academic (IELTS AC)	Speaking	7.5
	Listening	7.0
	Reading	7.0
	Writing	6.5
	Overall score	7.0
3. TESTCan	Speaking	4.5
	Listening	4.5
	Reading	4.5
	Writing	4.0
	Overall	-
4. CanTEST	Speaking	4.5
	Listening	4.5
	Reading	4.5
	Writing	4.0
	Overall	-

Note: Each skill area minimum score must be met in order for the language requirement to be considered to have been met.



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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 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:
 - i. Requiring the registrant to disclose to all potential employers that he/she has not yet met the College's fluency requirement; and/or
 - ii. Imposing conditions for supervision (e.g. written documentation, verbal communication); and/or
 - iii. 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 8-90 - Request for Exemption from Language Fluency Requirement