

# Education & Fieldwork Requirements for Canadian Educated Applicants

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<b>Section:</b>	Registration
<b>Applies to:</b>	Canadian educated applicants
<b>Approved by:</b>	Registration Committee
<b>Date Established:</b>	July 1998
<b>Date Revised:</b>	July 2001, January 2002, March 2003, May 2003, November 2007, May 2009, October 2011, January 2013, November 2017, June 2018, February 2022

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## Purpose

This policy explains how applicants who completed a Canadian occupational therapy degree can meet the education and fieldwork requirements.

## Principles

Applicants must possess the required competencies to be able to provide safe, effective, ethical care. To meet this requirement, they must successfully complete an approved occupational therapy degree.

## Policy

An approved occupational therapy degree is a Bachelor of Science degree or Master of Science degree in occupational therapy obtained in Ontario or one that is considered equivalent by the Registration Committee.

The Registration Committee considers Canadian occupational therapy degrees obtained from university programs that are [accredited by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists](#) equivalent to an Ontario degree. Applicants who can show they have obtained one of these degrees is deemed to have met the College's education and fieldwork requirements.

## How applicants prove they have met the requirements

### If applying to the College after graduation:

Applicants must ask the approved university to send a copy of the official final transcript directly to the College.

If an applicant applies to the College more than 18 months after they obtained their occupational therapy degree, they must show evidence that they have completed 600 hours of service within

the scope of the profession within the last three years. If they do not meet this requirement, they will be required to complete an approved refresher program.

**If applying to the College before graduation:**

Applicants must ask the occupational therapy program to send a letter directly to the College. The letter must state that the applicant has successfully completed the program and will graduate.

The applicant must also ask the university to send the final official transcript directly to the College within 30 days of the convocation date.

**If the applicant obtained a Canadian degree that is not approved**

The College's Registration Committee reviews cases where an applicant successfully completed a Canadian degree that is not approved. It may require the applicant to complete the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS).

SEAS is a way of determining whether the applicant's education and fieldwork are substantially equivalent to what is required in Ontario. The SEAS process is administered by the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations.

**Legal Requirement**

[Ontario Regulation 226/96: General, under the Occupational Therapy Act, 1991, s. 36\(1\) and 37\(1\)](#)