



Policy Title: English Language Proficiency	Replaces former policy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title: COTBC Language Proficiency Requirement <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Applies to: Occupational Therapy	Date Effective: 2024-06-28
	Last Update: Select date
Contact: Name of Policy Owner	

Policy Statement:

All Applicants to the Designated Health Profession of Occupational Therapy (“Applicants”) must demonstrate English language proficiency.

Graduation from a Canadian occupational therapy education program approved by the College, where the program was completed in English, constitutes sufficient evidence of English language proficiency.

An Applicant who has not graduated from a Canadian occupational therapy education program approved by the College may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement by fulfilling one or more of the qualifying circumstances described in Appendix A.

1. Policy Rationale and Purpose:

This policy explains the College’s English language proficiency requirements for the Designated Health Profession of Occupational Therapy.

Per the Labour Mobility Support Agreement (LMSA, 2010), this policy is consistent with the national framework for a harmonized language proficiency standard to practise in Canada. It also reflects research on the language demands of occupational therapy, through which the minimum language proficiency required for practice has been identified as a high-intermediate/advanced benchmark level.

2. Policy Scope:

This policy applies to Applicants to the Designated Health Profession of Occupational Therapy.

3. Legal Authority:

- *Health Professions Act*



- CHCPBC Bylaws, Schedule 3, 1.1.5

4. Key Partnerships:

- Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO)

5. Definitions:

N/A

6. Process Check:

- Board Policy Framework
- Safe Spaces Playbook
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Resources/References:

- Labour Mobility Support Agreement (LMSA, 2010)
- [Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations \(March 2012\): Harmonizing Language Proficiency Standards for Occupational Therapy in Canada](#)
- Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators, College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (June 2010): Benchmarking Language Demands of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists

Reviewed by the Board on:		Select date	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Reviewed by the Registrar/Deputy Registrar on:		Select date	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Date Approved Select date	Approved By <input type="checkbox"/> Board <input type="checkbox"/> Committee (<i>Name of Committee</i>) OR Name <i>Full Name</i> Title <i>Title</i>		
Date Effective Select date	Revision history	Last Updated:	Select date
Next Review Select date		Previous Update:	Select date
Drafted by: Name <i>Name</i>		Title <i>Title</i>	



Appendices

Appendix A

Qualifying Circumstances for Evidence of English Language Proficiency

1. An Applicant provides evidence that their first language is English.
2. An Applicant provides verification — in the form of a signed letter sent directly to the College from the educational institution they attended, as a hard-copy original document, fax or PDF — that their occupational therapy education program (theoretical and practical components) was completed in English.
3. An Applicant provides verification — sent directly to the College from the approved credential assessment agency that completed their educational credential assessment, as a hard-copy original document, fax or PDF — that their occupational therapy education program (theoretical and practical components) was completed in English.
4. An Applicant provides evidence — sent directly to the College from a language testing agency, as a hard-copy original document, fax or PDF — that they have completed a College-approved English language proficiency test and achieved at least the minimum scores indicated below.

Test	Skill Area	Minimum Score
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Speaking	26
	Listening	20–22
	Reading	20–22
	Writing	20–22
	Overall	92
International English Language Testing System – Academic (IELTS Academic)	Speaking	7–7.5
	Listening	N/A
	Reading	N/A
	Writing	7.5
	Overall	7–7.5
CanTEST	Speaking	4.5
	Listening	4.5
	Reading	4.5
	Writing	4.0
	Overall	-

Note: The Applicant must achieve at least the minimum score in *each* skill area of their chosen test to meet the language proficiency requirement.