Prince Edward Island College of Occupational Therapists

Policy

Title: Language Proficiency   **No.** 3.6

Category: Registration

Applies to: Applicants

Authority: RHPA/Regulations

Date Established: February 13, 2018

1.0 Purpose
Effective communication is a key essential competency of occupational therapy practice and is critical for the delivery of safe and effective quality care.

2.0 Policy
Applicants to the College who have not graduated from a Canadian occupational therapy education program delivered in English must provide objective evidence of English proficiency as a requirement for registration.

3.0 Application
Applicants who have not graduated from a Canadian Occupational Therapy Program delivered in English.

4.0 Background
As a signatory to the Labour Mobility Support Agreement (LMSA, 2016), this PEICOT policy:
> 4.1 Is consistent with the national framework for a harmonized language proficiency standard to practice in Canada[1].
> 4.2 Reflects research on the language demands of occupational therapy.
> 4.3 Identifies the minimum language proficiency required for practice as a high-intermediate/advanced benchmark level[2].

5.0 Procedures
Applicants will provide **ONE (1)** of the following:
> 5.1 First language is English
> 5.2 A signed letter sent directly to the College from the educational institution where their occupational program was completed, indicating their theoretical and practical training were completed in English.

5.3 Documentation sent directly to the College from the accredited credential assessment agency that completed their academic credential assessment verifying their occupational therapy program (theoretical and practical components) was completed in English.

5.4 Evidence sent to the College directly from the language testing agency verifying they have achieved a minimum score on one of the College approved Language Tests (See Table 1).

Note: Documents must be sent directly to the College from the program, institution, or agency as a hard copy original document or PDF email.

6.0 Outcomes

The Registrar:

6.1 Will notify any applicants who have not provided sufficient evidence of language proficiency they cannot be registered.

6.2 May grant a temporary exemption (with terms, conditions and/or limitations - TCLs), under exceptional circumstances, to an applicant who has demonstrated a degree of English language proficiency that would, with supervision, provide adequate safeguarding of public safety and effective care.

TCLs may include but are not limited to:

a) Requiring the registrant to disclose to all potential employers that they have not yet met the College's English language proficiency 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.

6.3 Will remove any TCLs and register the applicant once the language proficiency requirement has been met.

6.4 Will notify applicants if their temporary registration expires before they meet their TCLs.

PEICOT Approved TEST	DETAILS	MINIMUM SCORE
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Speaking	26
	Listening	22
	Reading	22
	Writing	22
	Overall	92
International English Testing System Academic (IELTS AC)	Speaking	7.5
	Listening	7.0
	Reading	7.0
	Writing	6.5
	Overall	7.0
Note: The minimum score must be met in each skill area in order to meet the language proficiency requirement.		

7.0 References

[1] Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulators (March 2012) *Harmonizing Language Proficiency Standards for Occupational Therapy in Canada.*

[2] 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*

Approved By	Established	Revision History	Next Review
Council	February 13, 2018	October 2023	October 2025