



**PEICOT**

**POLICY TITLE: LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

**NO: 3.6**

**DATE ESTABLISHED: January 29, 2018**

**CATEGORY: Registration**

**AUTHORITY: RHPA/Regulations**

Effective communication is one of the key essential competencies of practice in occupational therapy and critical for the delivery of safe and effective quality care. An applicant to the College must be proficient in English and provide persuasive, objective evidence of this proficiency to practice Occupational Therapy in Prince Edward Island.

As a signatory to the Labour Mobility Support Agreement (LMSA, 2016), this PEICOT policy: a) is consistent with the national framework for a harmonized language proficiency standard to practice in Canada<sup>1</sup>, b) reflects research on the language demands of occupational therapy, and c) identifies the minimum language proficiency required for practice as a high-intermediate/advanced benchmark level<sup>2</sup>.

**English Language Proficiency Requirement**

Graduates from Canadian occupational therapy education programs approved by the College are not required to provide evidence of English language proficiency.

Applicants who have not graduated from a Canadian occupational therapy education program approved by the College must provide appropriate evidence of English language proficiency. An applicant may meet the requirement by the following:

1. Applicants' first language is English; or
2. Providing verification in the form of a signed letter sent directly to the College from the educational institution where their occupational therapy program was completed, as a hard copy original document, fax or PDF, that the occupational therapy program (theoretical and practical components) was completed in English; or
3. Providing verification from the accredited credential assessment agency that completed their academic credential assessment, that their occupational therapy program (theoretical and practical components) was completed in English. This must be sent directly from the agency to the College as a hard copy original document, fax or PDF; or
4. Providing evidence directly from the language testing agency to the College as a hard copy original document, fax or PDF that they have achieved the minimum score indicated below on one of the following College approved Language Tests (included in the Table 1).

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*

**Possible Outcomes:**

5. An applicant who can provide sufficient evidence of English language proficiency will be deemed to have met the language proficiency requirement.
6. An applicant who cannot provide sufficient evidence of English language proficiency will:
  - a) Be notified that they cannot be registered until they have met this requirement; or
  - b) If the applicant has met all other requirements, under exceptional circumstances, they may be granted a temporary exemption from the requirement and will have Terms, Conditions and/or Limitations (TCLs) placed on the certificate of registration. This decision is at the discretion of the Registration Committee and may be granted 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. The TCLs may include but are not limited to:
    - i) Requiring the registrant to disclose to all potential employers that they have not yet met the College’s English language proficiency 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 English language proficiency requirement, the TCLs will be removed. If the registrant does not pass the required language test by the date stipulated, their certificate of registration will expire.

**Table 1**

<b>TEST</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>MINIMUM SCORE</b>
<b>Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)</b>	Speaking	26
	Listening	22
	Reading	22
	Writing	22
	Overall	92
<b>International English Testing System Academic (IELTS AC)</b>	Speaking	7.5
	Listening	7.0
	Reading	7.0
	Writing	6.5
	Overall	7.0
<b>CanTEST</b>	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 proficiency requirement to be considered to have been met.

<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Reviewed/Revised</b>	<b>Next Review</b>
Council	February 13, 2018	November 25, 2019	September 2021