

Type of policy: Registration	Approved by: Registration Committee
Date approved: February 22, 2013	Review date: May 3, 2027
Amendment dates: April 29, 2021; October 28, 2021; January 27, 2023; February 9, 2024; May 3, 2024	

Language Proficiency Policy

Purpose

It is in the public interest for the College to ensure that Registered Psychotherapists are reasonably fluent in English or French. Reasonable fluency ensures inter-professional collaboration, appropriate care in an emergency, and ability to maintain accessible health records. This policy clarifies how reasonable fluency in English or French is demonstrated on an application and should enable applicants to determine whether they meet the language proficiency requirement.

Scope

This policy applies to all applicants applying for registration with the College.

Sources of Authority

Registration Requirements Regulation under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*

Language proficiency testing requirements

3. (1) An applicant for registration satisfies a College's English or French language proficiency testing requirement if the applicant demonstrates, within two years before the date of making the application, English or French language proficiency at a level satisfactory to the College on a test that is approved under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* for use in assessing language proficiency.

(2) Subsection (1) does not limit a College's ability to accept other examinations, tests or assessments as evidence of English or French language proficiency.

Regulated Health Professions Act Code

Objects of College

3 (1) The College has the following objects:

2. To develop, establish and maintain standards of qualification for persons to be issued certificates of registration.

CRPO Registration Regulation

4. An applicant must satisfy the following requirements for the issuance of a certificate of registration of any class:

3. The applicant must be able to speak, read and write in either English or French with reasonable fluency.

Policy

An applicant can demonstrate they meet the language proficiency requirement in one or more of the following ways:

- the applicant's first language is English or French; or
- the applicant's elementary or secondary education was in English or French; or
- the applicant's post-secondary education or professional training, where the language of instruction, including the language used in client care, was in English or French; or
- the applicant primarily provides psychotherapy services in English or French; or
- the applicant has successfully completed a CRPO accepted bridging program that has both didactic and experiential components in English or French; or
- the applicant has successfully completed one of the following Language Proficiency Tests within two years of the date of application and has achieved the minimum scores identified:

Language Proficiency Test	Minimum Score Required
Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) - General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score of 7 required on all skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing).
Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment (CLBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmark score of 7 required on all skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing).
Canadian Test for English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score of 4.0 on each section – listening, writing and speaking; and • A minimum score of 3.5 in reading.
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic or General Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6.0 required on all skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
Michigan English Test (MET) – 4 Skill Version	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score of 54 on each section – listening, reading, speaking, writing.
Pearson Test of English (PTE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score in each section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading: 60-68 ○ Writing: 69-78 ○ Listening: 60-70 ○ Speaking: 68-75
Test d'Evaluation de Français Canada (TEF Canada) – French Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score in each section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading: 207-232 ○ Writing: 310-348 ○ Listening: 249-279 ○ Speaking: 310-348
Test de Connaissance du Français Canada (TCF Canada) – French Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score in each section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading: 453-498 ○ Writing: 10-11 ○ Listening: 458-502 ○ Speaking: 10-11

Test de Français Pour Étudiants et Stagiaires au Canada (TESTCan) – French Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum score of 4.0 on each section – listening, writing and speaking; and • A minimum score of 3.5 in reading.
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) – Internet-Based Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 80 (Total score cannot be achieved with all minimums) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading: 18 (mid-Intermediate) ○ Writing: 20 (mid-Fair) ○ Listening: 19 (high-Intermediate) ○ Speaking: 20 (mid-Fair)

Updates to This Policy

The Registration Committee directs CRPO staff to update the list of approved tests in the following circumstances:

- To add a new test approved under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) for use in assessing language proficiency;
- To replace an existing approved test that has been discontinued with the replacement test offered by the same assessment provider; and/or
- To remove a test that is no longer offered, if more than two years have passed since the test was offered.

The Registration Committee will approve all other revisions to the policy on an individual basis.

Related Document

[Supporting Documents Checklist](#)