



Ontario College of
Social Workers and
Social Service Workers

Third-Party Credential Assessment Partners Guidance Resource

INTRODUCTION

This resource provides guidance to applicants who obtained their academic qualifications outside of Canada and the United States, outlining the different roles and responsibilities of designated third-party credential assessment agencies and the College in evaluating international academic qualifications. It also provides links to the agencies' websites to assist applicants in obtaining key information about the required evaluation reports and evaluation process.

The College partners with the following organizations to evaluate international academic qualifications:

Organization	Scope of Evaluation
Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)	Evaluates international social work credentials only.
World Education Services (WES Canda)	Evaluates all international credentials, regardless of the field of study.
International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS Canada)	Evaluates all international credentials, regardless of the field of study.

All three organizations are required to provide assessments that are in accordance with the standards that the College must meet under the [Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act, 2006](#) (FARPACTA).

The following provides information on the specific role of each organization and the purpose of their evaluation.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN A NUTSHELL

The College

Will consider the evaluation reports from CASW and/or WES/ICAS Canada to determine which application stream is appropriate and use the reports as proof of academic qualifications.

Note: *The College will take into account the opinion expressed by WES Canada/ICAS Canada and further evaluate the international credentials to determine if their content is substantially equivalent to a Canadian BSW/MSW*

CASW

Evaluates international social work credentials to determine if their content is equivalent to a Canadian BSW/MSW.

WES Canada / ICAS Canada

Evaluates all international academic credentials, verifies institution status and indicates the equivalent of the international credential in the Canadian educational system (e.g. diploma, baccalaureate, master's degree, etc.).

Note: *WES Canada and ICAS Canada do not evaluate the content of the international programs to determine equivalency to a Canadian BSW/MSW.*

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (CASW)

The [Canadian Association of Social Workers](#) (CASW) establishes standards of practice within the profession of social work.

Roles and responsibilities of CASW:

- Assesses international social work degree programs against the standards for a Canadian Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) or Master of Social Work degree (MSW).
- Provides applicants and the College with an evaluation report.
- Conducts assessments in a way that is transparent, objective, impartial and fair.
- Provides timely decisions, reasons and responses to College applicants.

CASW method of assessment and purpose of evaluation

CASW applies the [Accreditation Standards](#) established by Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) in their evaluation to determine whether the international social work academic qualifications are equivalent to a Canadian BSW or MSW. The CASWE accredits all Canadian social work programs. For more information, visit the [Assessment of International Credentials](#) section of CASW website.

Receiving the assessment

When the CASW has completed the evaluation of credentials, applicants will receive electronic communication of results, regardless of the outcome. For more information, please visit the CASW [Assessment of International Credentials](#) Terms and Conditions.

Review the following CASW resources for information on:

- CASW timelines: [Application Procedure](#).
- Review or appeal process: [CASW Assessment of International Credentials Terms and Conditions](#) (see Appendix 7).
- Cost of the CASW evaluation: [Assessment of International Credentials - Questions and Answers](#)
- Alternative Documentation Policy: Contact CASW directly for information (caswassessment@casw-acts.ca).

COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER RECEIVING A CASW EVALUATION

After receiving a CASW evaluation report, the College will:

- Use the report as proof of an applicant's academic qualifications.

- Register the applicant if the CASW evaluation report concludes that the international degree is equivalent to a Canadian social work degree accredited by the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education](#) (CASWE), if the applicant has met all other registration requirements.
- Provide the applicant with information regarding next steps if the evaluation concludes that their international academic credential in social work is not equivalent to a Canadian degree in social work.

WORD EDUCATION SERVICES CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE OF CANADA

[World Education Services \(WES Canada\)](#) and the [International Credential Assessment Service of Canada \(ICAS Canada\)](#) evaluate post-secondary international academic qualifications, regardless of the field of study.

Their evaluations help the College understand how an applicant's international academic qualifications align with the Canadian education system. Specifically, the "Canadian equivalency" noted in these reports indicates whether an international diploma or degree is equivalent or comparable to a Canadian diploma or degree.

It is important to note that the evaluation reports issued by WES Canada and ICAS Canada are advisory in nature. While the College considers the findings and opinion expressed by both WES Canada and ICAS Canada, it conducts its own evaluation to determine whether the content of the international academic qualifications is substantially equivalent to the content of an accredited BSW degree or approved diploma in social service work. This evaluation is not duplicative – it builds on the third-party evaluation to ensure alignment with the College's registration policies and requirements.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WES CANADA AND ICAS CANADA

- Confirms the authenticity of official transcripts.
- Verifies the status of the academic institution.
- Produces an evaluation report that provides an advisory opinion to the College on the Canadian equivalency of the international credential in the Canadian educational system (e.g., diploma, baccalaureate, master's degree, etc.). In other words, the evaluation report indicates whether the international diploma or degree is considered equivalent to a Canadian diploma or degree.
- Provides timely decisions, reasons and responses to College applicants.

INFORMATION ABOUT WES CANADA AND ICAS CANADA EVALUATIONS

	WES Canada	ICAS Canada
Type of report required by the College	International Credential Advantage Package (ICAP) Course by Course Evaluation	Postsecondary Comprehensive Assessment Report (also known as a Postsecondary course-by-course assessment)
Cost of evaluation	Visit Evaluations - WES .	Visit https://www.icascanada.ca/new/main-application.aspx/services.aspx .
Method of assessment	Compares international credentials to Canadian standards.	Compares international credentials to Canadian standards.
Credential evaluation process	Review the following resources available on WES Canada website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credential Evaluation - Frequently Asked Questions • Help Centre - WES 	Review the following resources available on ICAS Canada website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Procedures • Required Documents • Frequently Asked Questions - Main Application ICAS
Processing times	Processing time begins once all the documents have been accepted. Refer to Current Processing - WES for details.	Processing time begins when all required documentation has been received. Refer to New Applicants ICAS for details.
Review or appeal process	Applicants can ask for a review of their credential evaluation report if they think there was an error or important documents were missed. Requests for appeals must clearly explain the issue, include any supporting documents, and be submitted through the applicant's WES account.	If the applicant disagrees with the outcome of the Assessment Report, the applicant can submit an appeal. Information about the appeal process is available in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.
Alternative Documentation Policy	Visit WES Gateway Program for details or contact WES Canada directly.	Contact ICAS Canada directly for information by using the contact form available on their website.

COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER RECEIVING A WES OR ICAS EVALUATION REPORT

The College reviews the evaluation report provided by WES Canada and ICAS Canada and conducts an evaluation of the academic program's content to determine whether their content is substantially equivalent to a an accredited BSW or approved diploma in social service work. In its assessment, the College applies the [Accreditation Standards](#) established by CASWE.

COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION

The College is dedicated to fostering strong, transparent relationships with its third-party credential assessment partners.

When concerns arise, we work collaboratively with our partners to identify solutions that enhance the process and benefit all applicants.

If you have any concerns regarding your experience with any of the third-party credential assessment partners, contact the College's Registration and Renewals Department at registration@ocswssw.org.

Please include:


- Subject Line: Third-party credential assessment service
- A brief description of your concern or complaint.
- Your full name, email address and phone number.

All emails will be acknowledged within five business days. Applicants will receive a written response to their concerns within 10-30 business days.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the College's Registration and Renewals Department:

 registration@ocswssw.org

 416-972-9882 or 1-877-828-9380 (toll free)



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