



Registration Policy on Language Proficiency

Approved by Council March 6, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set standards and criteria by which an applicant to which this policy applies will demonstrate to the College the ability to speak and write English or French with reasonable fluency. This will ensure that the public interest is being served as the benchmarks established assure the public that the registrant can speak and write French or English with reasonable fluency. The policy will meet one of the core values of the College which is fairness and transparency.

Background Information

As outlined in the Ontario Regulation 383/00, one of the requirements for a certificate of registration for any class is: 5.(2)4 "The applicant must demonstrate the ability to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency".

Application of Policy

The College's application form requires an applicant to reply "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:

1. Is English the applicant's primary language of communication?
2. Is French the applicant's primary language of communication?
3. Was English the language of the applicant's educational instruction in social work or social service work?
4. Was French the language of the applicant's educational instruction in social work or social service work?
5. Does the applicant currently provide social work services, or social service work services, principally in English?
6. Does the applicant currently provide social work services, or social service work services, principally in French?

(referred to in this policy as the "Language Fluency Questions").

This policy only applies to an applicant who answers "No" to all the Language Fluency Questions¹.

¹ There is a distinction between the term "fluency" and "proficiency". The term "fluency" refers to one's speed or smoothness of speech, whereas the term "proficiency" refers to one's ability to use the language at a more sophisticated



Policy Statement

An applicant who answers "No" to all of the Language Fluency Questions is required to demonstrate the ability to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency by:

- (a) undertaking the language proficiency test(s) that constitute one of the testing systems that is acceptable to the College, and
- (b) achieving the result scores indicated below.

The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with taking the language proficiency test(s).

The applicant is responsible for arranging for the written test results to be forwarded directly from the testing agency to the College.

The College will not accept test results from a language proficiency test that the applicant completed more than two years prior to the date the application for registration is received by the College.

Written and Spoken Fluency (English)

Each of the following English Language proficiency testing systems is acceptable to the College:

1. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Internet-based (iBT) Test
2. IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Academic Test
3. IELTS (International English Language Testing System) General Test
4. CELPIP (Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program) General Test
5. PTE (Pearson Test of English) Core

An applicant must achieve the test result scores indicated below from one of the above-mentioned language proficiency testing systems in order to demonstrate the ability to speak or write English with reasonable fluency:

level



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1. TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT)
 - a. Overall: 92, Writing: 22, Speaking: 26, Listening: 22, Reading: 22
2. IELTS Academic
 - a. Minimum score of no less than 7 in each component: reading, listening, writing, speaking
3. IELTS General
 - a. Minimum score of no less than 7 in each component: reading, listening, writing, speaking
4. CELPIP General
 - a. Minimum score of no less than 7 in each component: reading, listening, writing, speaking
5. PTE
 - a. Core – Minimum score of no less than CLB 7 or as described below:
 - i. Listening comprehension: 60-70
 - ii. Reading comprehension: 60-68
 - iii. Verbal skills: 68-75
 - iv. Written skills: 69-78

Written and Spoken Fluency (French)

The following French language proficiency testing systems are acceptable to the College:

1. TEF (Test d'évaluation de français) Canada
2. TCF (Test de connaissance du français) Canada

An applicant must achieve the test result scores indicated below from one of the above-mentioned language proficiency testing systems in order to demonstrate the ability to speak or write French with reasonable fluency:

1. TEF (Test d'évaluation de français)
 - a. Minimum test scores of no less than C1 or as described below:
 - i. Written comprehension (Reading) C1 = 233 or higher
 - ii. Oral comprehension (Listening) C1 = 280 or higher
 - iii. Lexicon and structure (Vocabulary and Grammar) C1 = 187 or higher



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- iv. Written expression (Writing) C1 = 349 or higher
 - v. Oral expression (Speaking) C1 = 349 or higher
2. TCF (Test de connaissance du français)
- a. Minimum test scores of no less than CLB 7 or as described below:
 - i. Listening comprehension: 458 or higher
 - ii. Reading comprehension: 453 or higher
 - iii. Verbal skills: 10 or higher
 - iv. Written skills: 10 or higher

Evaluation

The policy will be evaluated by staff annually and brought to Council for approval if changes are required.