

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING DIRECTION

Current and updated as of: March 18, 2025

Language Proficiency Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the language standards required by the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba (CPM) to demonstrate minimum language proficiency.

Principles

As part of CPM's obligation to maintain high standards of quality and safety in physiotherapy practice, all internationally educated physiotherapists must demonstrate proficiency in English or French as part of the credentialing process with our vendor the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR). This will ensure that physiotherapists licenced in Manitoba will have the language skills necessary to conduct their practice safely and effectively.

Policy

This policy applies to all internationally educated physiotherapists applying for a licensure with CPM. CPM works closely with the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) credentialing process.

An applicant must meet the language proficiency requirements in one of two ways:

- 1) education, or
- 2) English language proficiency testing.

Education

To become licensed or registered, an applicant must be fluent in either English or French.

- 1) If an applicant completed their physiotherapy education (both classroom and clinical components) in one of the countries listed below, they do not need to prove their language fluency:
 - Australia,
 - United States of America,
 - New Zealand,
 - Republic of Ireland,

- United Kingdom, or
 - France
- 2) If they completed their entire primary and secondary school education in Canada, they do not need to complete a language proficiency test.

Waiver Based On Professional Education

As outlined in Section 5(1) and 5(2) of Language Proficiency Testing Regulation, M.R. 91/2024¹, CPM must waive its testing requirement for English and French language proficiency if an applicant has graduated from a professional education program that meets the following criteria:

- a) all components of the program were instructed and evaluated in English or French;
- b) the program is approved, recognized, accredited or otherwise accepted by the regulated profession as qualifying the applicant to proceed with the regulated profession's registration process.

Process

Waiving the requirement of language testing based on professional education requires application and assessment by our vendor the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR).

The applicant must:

- 1) Complete section A of the *English Language Proficiency: Program Information and Request for Transcript* form.
- 2) Send the form to their physiotherapy school/educational institute to have section B completed. The school/educational institution must submit the form and requested documentation directly to the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) in an envelope printed/stamped with the Physiotherapy school letterhead, seal or stamp.
- 3) Pay the applicable fee to CAPR.

Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received; priority will be given to those already residing in Manitoba, and if all criteria are met, a waiver will be granted.

Disclaimer: The waiver is for applicants who intend register to practice in Manitoba where the language testing proficiency regulations allows for this waiver. Other provincial regulators have different requirements. Individuals must contact the regulator in the jurisdiction they plan to register.

¹ Language Proficiency Testing Regulation: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/091-2024.php?lang=en>

English Language Proficiency Testing

All applicants must achieve the minimum score in each language skill area (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) on one of the approved language tests listed in this policy.

- 1) All scores must meet the minimum requirements in one sitting. Scores from multiples sittings cannot be combined to meet the language requirement.

Exception: Applicants can submit an IELTS One Skill Retake test if it meets the minimum score requirements for the IELTS General or Academic test.

- 2) The language testing agency must submit the official language scores directly to CAPR within two years of the test date. If CAPR receives an official language test result before an application, the test results must still be valid (i.e. less than two years old) at the time the application is received. Once language proficiency is demonstrated no further testing is required.

Accepted Language Tests

- Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General (CELP G)
- International English Language Testing System General Training (IELTS GT)
- International English Language Testing System Academic (IELTS AC)
- Pearson Test of English Core (PTE Core)
- Test d'évaluation du français (TEF)
 - TEF Canada, TEF Quebec and TEF 5 épreuves
- Test de connaissance du français (TCF)
 - TCF Canada, TCF Quebec and TCF Tout Public

Required Minimum Scores

	CELP G	IELTS GT	IELTS AC	PTE Core	TEF*	TEF**	TCF
Reading	9	7.0	7.0	78	533	503	524
Writing	8	6.5	6.5	79	500	472	12
Listening	8	7.0	7.0	71	500	462	503
Speaking	8	6.5	6.5	76	500	494	12
Overall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* For tests taken between October 1, 2019 and December 10, 2023.

** For tests taken after December 10, 2023.

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Revised: March 18, 2025, May 15, 2024, February 27, 2023