

## RA1.8 POLICY ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE FLUENCY

RA1.8

DATE OF CURRENT REVISION OR CREATION - JUL 2018

Applicants must be able to speak and write English with reasonable fluency.

### Rationale:

Effective communication is essential for the provision of competent, safe, high quality Massage Therapy services. Language fluency enhances public protection by ensuring that registrants can communicate effectively with clients and other members of the health care team. The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario Certification Examinations are not designed to test language fluency and do not require any writing activities. Therefore, applicants of the Massage Therapy program at Ontario College of Health and Technology are required to meet the college's language fluency requirement prior to being admitted to the program. The same language proficiency requirements are enforced by the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario for any candidate attempting the Certification Examinations.

All activities (lectures, seminars, laboratories, etc.) at the Ontario College of Health and Technology are conducted in English. It is essential that every student possess strong English writing, comprehension and speaking skills in order to be successful with the program curriculum and any other components of the program (student clinic and outreach). Our language fluency policy for admission to the program contains the same expectations as those of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario for registering for the Certification Examinations.

### Decision Criteria:

- (a) An applicant may meet the language fluency requirement by providing proof, acceptable to the college of one of the following:
- (b) An applicant's first language is English.
- (c) An applicant has completed his/her secondary school education in English.\*
- (d) An applicant has completed a post-secondary degree or diploma program in English
- (e) An applicant has completed a standardized English language test approved by the College within the past two years and achieved the required scores set by the College.

\*Please note that this refers to graduation from a secondary school program, not completion of a high-school English course or courses.

### Methods of Demonstrating Criteria:

The following five methods are acceptable means of demonstrating that the applicant meets the requirement:

- (a) Signing a self-declaration indicating that his/her first and primary language is English.
- (b) Signing a self-declaration indicating that his/her secondary school education was completed in English and indicating the name and location of the school; if the applicant completed his/her education outside of Canada in a country where English is the primary language of communication and employment, he or she may be required to provide verification directly from the school regarding language of instruction. \*
- (c) Signing a self-declaration indicating that post-secondary school education was completed in English and indicating the name and location of the school; if the applicant completed his/her education outside of Canada in a country where English is the primary language of communication and employment, he or she may be required to provide verification directly from the school regarding language of instruction. \*
- (d) Providing test results from an approved standardized language fluency test demonstrating that she or he has achieved the minimum scores determined by the college. This report must be submitted directly from the language testing agency to the college. An applicant must meet college-approved minimum scores in each area of one test (i.e., multiple tests cannot be combined); test results will be considered valid for two years from the date the test was administered. The accepted tests are:

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APPROVED TESTS AND MINIMUM SCORES REQUIRED TO MEET THE LANGUAGE FLUENCY REQUIREMENT- CMTO				
	MELA	IELTS	TOEFL INTERNET BASED TEST (iBT)	CanTEST
<b>English Tests &amp; Required Score(s)</b>	Writing: 7 Speaking: 8 Listening: 8 Reading: 8	Writing: 6.0 Speaking: 6.5 Listening: 7.5 Reading: 6.5	Writing: 20 Speaking: 20 Listening: 24 Reading: 19	Writing: 3.5 Speaking: 4.5 Listening: 4.0 Reading: 4.0
<b>French Tests &amp; Required Score(s)</b>	Testcan	Test d'évaluation du français		
	Writing: 3.5 Speaking: 4.5 Listening: 4.0 Reading: 4.0	Writing: 310 Speaking: 349 Listening: 233 Reading: 280		

- (e) Providing to the college other compelling evidence of language fluency. This could be, for example, evidence that the applicant completed an ESL course that provides proof of the achievement of a high-level of English language proficiency. A certificate of completion accompanied by program description may be required.

\*This includes a minimum of three years' education in English. Completion of single course is not acceptable.

### Possible Outcomes:

1. An applicant who provides acceptable evidence of fluency by way of one of the four methods listed above will be deemed to have met the language fluency requirement so as to allow them to register for apply for admission to the Massage Therapy program at Ontario College of Health and Technology. However, if the college obtains reasonable grounds to indicate that the applicant may not in fact be reasonably fluent in English, the applicant will be required to submit proof that they have obtained the minimum scores determined by the college on an approved standardized language fluency assessment in order to apply for a program admission.
2. An applicant who cannot provide sufficient evidence of fluency will be notified that he/she will not be admitted to the program until he/she has met the language fluency requirement.

Established: July 30, 2018

Reviewed: February 17, 2019

**Meeting the Language Proficiency Requirement of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario.**

The CMTO has a strict language policy. Their policy can be found at [www.cmto.com](http://www.cmto.com). The CMTO's decision criteria is as follows:

**Decision Criteria:**

- (a) A candidate may meet the language fluency requirement by providing proof, acceptable to the College of one of the following:
- (b) A candidate's first language is English or French
- (c) A candidate has completed his/her secondary school education in English or French
- (d) A candidate has completed a standardized English or French language test approved by the College within the past two years and achieved the required scores set by the College
- (e) The candidate has successfully completed an approved Massage Therapy program that had a minimum language fluency requirement for admission AND the program's curriculum included at least two full (e.g. 3-credit or 30-hour) mandatory courses in English, French or health-related communications that were successfully completed by the candidate.

Ontario College of Health and Technology has provided sufficient evidence to the CMTO to meet decision criteria #4. Upon graduation from OCHT, the CMTO requires OCHT to submit a completed transcript and copy of the diploma of any student not meeting Decision Criteria 1, 2 or 3. The CMTO will then determine if the candidate meets Decision Criteria #4 and will then contact the candidate to inform them that they can attend the CMTO OSCE and MCQ.