

English Language Proficiency

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Policy Number: RP-01 | Bylaw Reference: 12.10, 12.11 |
| Approval Date: February 2024 | Scheduled Review: Annually |
| Revised Date(s): | Reviewed by: Registrar and Council |

Purpose

A dentist must be able to communicate effectively with patients, other professionals, and the College. The Act and the Regulation require an applicant to have demonstrated proficiency in the English language as required by the Registrar.

Scope

This policy applies to all applicants for registration on the Main Register.

Policy Statement

Applications for Registration, including Reinstatements

Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in speaking, listening, writing, and reading in English. Applicants may need to provide evidence to meet the English language proficiency requirement.

Equivalent English Proficiency

An applicant may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement if they have one of the following:

- An applicant's dental school or postgraduate dental education program was in a Country where English is the first or native language.
- More than 50% of the dental school and postgraduate dental education, including residency and clinical fellowship training, was taken in a Country where English is the first or native language.
- The applicant is currently or has been registered to practise in a Country where English is the first or native language and meets the English language requirements of that regulatory body.

Evidence to Satisfy the Requirement

One of the following

- Official dental school or postgraduate dental education program transcripts were completed in English.*
- Notarized/Certified copies of dental degrees or diplomas earned.
- Letter or certificate of standing from a jurisdiction, which includes a description of the English language requirement for registration and the necessary scores on the required English language test, must be noted.*
- Official English language test results including the necessary scores.*

*Documents must come directly from the issuing organization to the College.

English Proficiency Test

An English language proficiency test is required when:

- There is no equivalent English proficiency requirement in the jurisdiction where the applicant is currently or has been registered.
- The dental school or postgraduate dental education program was conducted in a language other than English.

Applicants who are required to demonstrate English language proficiency must do so by completing an academic version of an English language proficiency test within 24 months before applying for registration.

Applicants may complete one of the following English language proficiency tests and must achieve the minimum passing grade.

- The IELTS Academic: achieving a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the four components in a single test.
- The OET Dental test: achieving a minimum grade of B in each component in a single test.
- The CELPIP General test: achieving a minimum score of 9 in each component in a single test.

The College will not accept expired test results. Applicants may demonstrate English language proficiency requirement by providing other evidence to satisfy the Registrar or retake the test.

Practice Permit Renewal

The Registrar or their delegate may request a regulated member applying for renewal of their practice permit to provide evidence of English language proficiency as outlined in this policy.

Exclusions

An applicant for registration on the Education and Research Register or the Courtesy Register is exempt from the English language proficiency requirement.

Responsibilities

Under the Act, the Registrar is given the authority to determine applications for registration under sections 28 to 30 and applications for practice permit renewal under sections 38 to 40. Section 20 of the Act allows the Registrar to delegate functions and duties to another person. The Registrar may delegate their duties and responsibilities under Part 2 of the Act to the Deputy Registrar or Registration Committee.

Definitions

- a) "Act" means the *Health Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c.H-7, as amended from time to time.
- b) "Applicant" means a person meeting the applicable application requirements set out in the HPA (section 28(1)).
- c) "College" means the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta.
- d) "Courtesy Register" means a person who is registered as a member under section 2(c) of the *Dentist Profession Regulation*.
- e) "Education and Research Register" means a person who is registered as a member under section 2(b) of the *Dentist Profession Regulation*.
- f) "Main Register" means a person who is registered as a member under section 2(a) of the *Dentist Profession Regulation*.
- g) "Regulated Member" means a person who is registered as a member under section 33(1)(a) of the *Health Professions Act*.
- h) "Regulation" means the *Dentists Profession Regulation*, AR 254/2001, as amended from time to time.

Listing of Countries

Recognized as having English as a first or native language:

- Australia
- Bahamas
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Canada (Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick may be exceptions)
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- US Virgin Islands Caribbean Islands: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Grenadines, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago