



## FACT SHEET

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The Fair Registration Practices Office of Manitoba has acknowledged that to practise as an occupational therapist in Manitoba, you must be able to communicate daily with English-speakers who may have little or no knowledge of the French language. You must be able to listen, speak, read and write at minimum level as set out in Table A

#### **Will I need to provide proof of my language proficiency?**

If you have established language proficiency in English as part of the Language Readiness Assessment component of the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS). Your results will be submitted on your behalf as part of your application file.

If you have established language proficiency in French as part of the Language Readiness Assessment component of the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS) or you have completed your qualifying occupational therapy education in French, you will be required to provide proof of language proficiency in English. The testing must not have be older than three years.

#### **I must provide proof of my proficiency in English. What test scores are acceptable?**

You can use any of these tests to demonstrate your English language proficiency:

Table A Minimum acceptable scores:

Language Skill	CELPPIP G	IELTS GT and AC	TOEFL iBT	PTE Core
Reading	9	7.0	21	78
Writing	8	6.5	21	79
Listening	8	7.0	21	71
Speaking	8	6.5	21	76

Please allow several months to complete the language testing requirement. This takes into account the time from the initial enquiry with the testing agency until the test scores are received by the COTM.

## **Can I begin occupational therapy practice before I have met the language proficiency requirements?**

Yes. You may be eligible to register on COTM Provisional Register as a supervised practice candidate for an initial period of up to 6 months to allow for acquisition of required language proficiency.

## **When will I be eligible to move to the Practising Register**

You may apply for conversion to practising registration when:

- your supervisor verifies satisfactory performance in all areas, and
- you are able to supply proof of English language proficiency with a formal language test score.

## **I have had my language skills tested recently. Can I submit those test results?**

Test scores must be from the approved list set out in Table A . Your test scores must be less than 3 years old, to be accepted.

## **If my English skills are not good enough after six months of supervised practice can I continue to work?**

You can apply, in writing, for an extension of your provisional registration if:

- ongoing supervision is available in the practice setting
- there is evidence that you are making progress in gaining proficiency in English

Extensions may be granted in six-month periods, for up to a total of two years.

## **Some of my documents are not in English. What should I do?**

You can submit original documents that are written in English or French. Original documents that are not in English or French must be translated into English at your expense. Only an official notarized translation of your degree, transcripts and personal identification will be accepted.

COTM will arrange to have French documents translated at no cost to the applicant.

For more information, please contact COTM at (204) 957-1214 or by email at [registration@cotm.ca](mailto:registration@cotm.ca)

This publication is provided for general information. For more specific information see  
*Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada, 2021*, The COTM *Code of Ethics*  
for Occupational Therapists and  
*The Occupational Therapists Act and Regulation.*

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