

Policy

Type:	Registration		
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Name:	Language Proficiency Policy		
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Background

To ensure that the practice of kinesiology in Ontario is safe and accessible, kinesiologists must be able to communicate clearly and effectively with their patients (or their representatives), with the College and with the general public. Under the Health Professions Procedural Code (“the Code”) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the College may set language proficiency requirements for kinesiologists, including how kinesiologists can demonstrate evidence of proficiency. Underpinning this policy are the principles of transparency, fairness, objectively, impartiality, and a focus on risk of harm.

Applicable Legislation and Regulation

Section 95(1)(c) of [the Code](#) indicates that:

95 (1) Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council and with prior review of the Minister, the Council may make regulations,

(c) prescribing standards and qualifications for the issue of certificates of registration.

Accordingly, Section 3.3 of the [General Regulation under the Kinesiology Act, 2007](#) sets out the following language proficiency requirements for issuance of a certificate of registration in any class:

3. The applicant must possess sufficient language proficiency, in either English or French, to be able to communicate and comprehend effectively, both orally and in writing.

Definitions

Approved Language Test – a language proficiency test that the College has determined is acceptable for applicants to undertake to demonstrate that they meet the language proficiency requirements.

Policy

General

To promote inclusive practice and manage risks, kinesiologists should be willing to make good faith attempts to facilitate effective communication across language or other communication barriers. Therefore:

1. An individual applying for registration with the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario must submit, in accordance with the Registration Regulation, Registration Timeline Policy and this policy, proof of proficiency in either English or French (or both).

a. Except where the individual is applying from out-of-province and the requirements for the issuance of the out-of-province certificate included language proficiency requirements equivalent to those required by the College, or where exceptional circumstances exist (as approved by the Registrar or Registration Committee), an applicant who cannot provide proof of English or French language proficiency may not be permitted to write the entry-to-practice exam and/or become registered with the College.

2. Applicants shall identify their preferred language of communication with the College (English or French).

3. Applicants shall identify their language(s) of practice to the College. All applicants must offer practice and services in English, French or both, in addition to any other language(s) they may use in practice.

a. This information will be included in the Public Register.

4. All patient records must be in English or French. The language used for record-keeping (English or French) should be the same as that used for communication with the College.

Language Proficiency – Applicants educated in Ontario

5. Proof of graduation from an Ontario university program (kinesiology or non-kinesiology) will be accepted as evidence of language proficiency in either English or French.

a. This holds true for applicants whose first language is neither English or French, but who were educated at and graduated from an Ontario University.

Language Proficiency – Applicants educated in Canada, outside Ontario

6. Proof of graduation from a Canadian university program (kinesiology or non-kinesiology) will be accepted as evidence of proficiency in English or French.

7. Applicants holding an out-of-province certificate of registration may be required to submit proof of language proficiency (English or French) if proof of language proficiency was not a requirement for the granting of their out-of-province certificate.

Language Proficiency – Applicants educated outside Canada

8. Internationally educated applicants who graduated from a program (kinesiology or non-kinesiology) in English or French may provide their transcript(s) as evidence of language proficiency in English or French

9. Internationally educated applicants whose first language is English or French who did not graduate from a program (kinesiology or non-kinesiology) in English or French may provide evidence of practice experience in a predominant English or French setting.

10. Internationally educated applicants whose first language is neither English or French and who did not graduate from a program (kinesiology or non-kinesiology) in English or French must submit proof of satisfactory completion of one of the following language proficiency tests:

Option	Fluency Test	Minimum Score
1	TOEFL Paper-based	560
2	TOEFL Internet based <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Listening • Speaking 	86 (Non-Cumulative Total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 • 20 • 20 • 23
3	IELTS – Academic or General Training	Level 6.5 required on all skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking)
4	CELP/IP	Level 8 required on all skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking).
5	CLBA	Benchmark score of 7 required on all skills (listening & speaking, reading, writing)
6	MetTest	54
7	TEF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Listening • Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 233/300 • 349/450 • 280/360 • 349/450
8	TCF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Listening • Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 499 • 12 • 503 • 12

Submission of proof of language proficiency

11. Any document required by the College as proof of language proficiency in English or French must be submitted directly to the College from the institution or organization producing the document(s), by email or mail.

Exceptions, Extenuating or Ambiguous Circumstances

12. Where ambiguity or uncertainty exists regarding language proficiency (despite proof of proficiency having been presented), the College may require an applicant to provide evidence of satisfactory completion of one of the above language-proficiency tests.

13. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances as approved by the Registration Committee or the Registrar, the following may be accepted as

proof of proficiency in English or French:

- a) A sworn affidavit, notarized in Ontario by a notary public or commissioner of oaths, indicating that the applicant is fluent in English or French.
- b) Successful completion of the application (including Jurisprudence e-Learning modules) and the entry-to-practice examination.
- c) Proof of registration with a professional College in another jurisdiction where English or French language proficiency is a requirement of registration.
- d) Proof of membership in a professional association in another jurisdiction where English or French language proficiency is a requirement of membership.
- e) Evidence of practice experience in a predominantly English or French practice setting.
- f) Proof of completion of a post-secondary degree or diploma program in English or French

14. Requests for accommodation under [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act](#) or based on equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-bias principles will be reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Registration Committee.

Costs

15. All costs associated with proof of language proficiency in English or French are the responsibility of the applicant, not the College.

Validity of Test Results

16. Test results are considered valid for two years from the date of the applicant passing the test.

17. Test results that are more than two years old will not be accepted by the College.

Review

18. Language proficiency standards as described in this policy will be reviewed by the College every two years to ensure they remain current.