



Language Proficiency

Policy Number: BOA-17

| Date of Approval | Responsible Authority | Last Revised |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| September 22, 2017 | CMLTM Council – Board of Assessors | December 10, 2025 |

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to state the English language proficiency requirements for initial registration pursuant to the Medical Laboratory Technologists Act, Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulation 179/2006, section 4(1)(c).

Policy

Research has confirmed that a high degree of proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking is extremely important for providing safe Medical Laboratory services.¹ Therefore, a demonstration of the required threshold level of English language proficiency is required as one measure of competency for Medical Laboratory Technology practice.

The Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory Professionals Regulators (CAMLPR) conducted an updated benchmarking research project¹ to validate the language proficiency required to practice as an MLT.

English Language Proficiency

1. An applicant for registration as a Medical Laboratory Technologist in Manitoba who meets one or more of the following criteria is deemed to be proficient in the English language when they have:
 - a. graduated from an Accreditation Canada (HSO) Equal accredited Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) education program where English was the language of instruction for classroom and clinical components; or graduated from a non - Canadian **Medical Laboratory Science** education program in which all components, including clinical placements or practicums, were instructed and evaluated in English. Supporting documentation must be submitted with the CMLTM application form (**please contact the CMLTM for the required attestation forms**),

¹ Grant, M. (2008). *Investigation of Language Assessment Tools and Benchmarks Necessary for Success for IELMS*. CSMLS.



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- b. notarized evidence or official transcript of graduation from a post-secondary education program (diploma or degree) in Canada where English was the language of instruction, and
- c. current registration and evidence of practice as an MLT in a Canadian jurisdiction.

Labour Mobility Exception

1. The policy does not apply to labour mobility applicants, who are assessed for English proficiency in another regulated province and deemed competent. The applicant's English proficiency is stated in a Letter of Standing from another Canadian Medical Laboratory Technologist regulator if it was part their registration.
2. All other applicants must meet the minimum score in each language skill area (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) for one of the approved language assessments listed below. All scores must meet the minimum requirements in one sitting. [IELTS One Skill Retake](#) will be accepted.
3. The language assessment must be submitted directly by the assessment agency within two years of the date of completion. If the official language assessment result is received before an application, the assessment results must still be valid (i.e. less than two years old) at the time the application is received.
4. The application process can begin prior to receiving proof of language proficiency in English, but the final results letter will not be issued until proof of language proficiency has been provided.

English Language Proficiency Assessments

- [IELTS-AC](#) International English Language Testing System – Academic
- [IELTS-G](#) International English Language Testing System – General
- [IELTS One Skill Retake](#) provides an equitable solution for test takers who demonstrated a high degree of English proficiency on the IELTS test day, but who did not perform to the best of their ability on one section of the assessment. They may opt to retake one skill (listening, reading, writing, or speaking), rather than having to sit the test in its entirety. They have sixty (60) days from the original test date to retake the one skill.
- [MELA](#) Michener English Language Assessment
- [CELP G](#) Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General



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| | CELPiP G | IELTS G | IELTS AC | MELA |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Listening | 9 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8 |
| Reading | 8 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8 |
| Speaking | 8 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8 |
| Writing | 8 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 7 |
| OVERALL | - | - | 6.5 – 7.0 | - |

Individual scores from components of one of the English language tests cannot be combined with the individual scores from components of another English language test to achieve an overall passing score.

All language test results submitted are considered current for two years from the date the test was taken.

Once language proficiency is demonstrated no further testing is required.

Notwithstanding that an applicant may be deemed to be proficient in the English language, where the Registrar has reasonable grounds to determine that the applicant for registration does not meet the English language proficiency requirements, the Registrar shall provide applicant with:

- a. Written reasons upon which the Registrar has made this determination.
- b. Notice that the applicant has the right to request that the Board of Assessors (BOA) review the reasons for the determination.
- c. Notice that the request for review made must be submitted to the Registrar by the applicant within 30 days of the reasons being sent to the applicant.

At the conclusion of the review, if the BOA has reasonable grounds to determine that the applicant for registration does not meet the English language proficiency requirements, the CMLTM reserves the right to request the applicant provide evidence of proficiency in English by meeting one of the standards outlined above.

References

1. Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB), Revisiting the English Language Benchmarks for MLT
2. Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapist Regulators (CAPR) [Language Proficiency Policy](#)
3. Pharmacy Gateway for Internationally educated pharmacists, National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) [Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure](#)



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4. College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) [Accepted Language Proficiency Tests](#)
5. College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) [English Language Proficiency PolicyID-53156](#)
6. Association of Canadian Occupational Therapist Regulatory Organization ([ACOTRO](#))

Revision History

- September 22, 2017 – Date of Approval
- March 29, 2018
- April 18, 2020
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- June 18, 2025
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