



Language Proficiency

Policy Number: BOA-17

Date of Approval	Responsible Authority	Last Revised
September 22, 2017	CMLTM Council – Board of Assessors	September 18, 2026

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 and evaluation for classroom and clinical components;
 - b. or graduated from a non - Canadian **Medical Laboratory Science** education program in which:
 - i. All components of the program were instructed and evaluated in English. Supporting documentation must be provided to CMLTM with the CMLTM application for attestation form; and

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



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- ii. The program is approved, recognized, accredited or otherwise accepted by CMLTM as qualifying the applicant to proceed with the CMLTM registration process.
- c. 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
- d. 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 or complete the CMLTM Language Attestation Forms and be approved by the Registrar and BOA. 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 and 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.



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- [MELA](#) Michener English Language Assessment
- [CELPPIP G](#) Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General
- [CLB-](#) Canadian Language Benchmarks. This not a language test, but a set of benchmarks established for immigration purposes.
- PTE - Pearson Test of English

	CELPPIP G	IELTS GT	IELTS AC	MELA	CLB	PTE (Core)
Listening	9	7.5	7.5	8	8	71 – 81
Reading	8	6.5	6.5	8	8	76 – 83
Speaking	8	6.5	6.5	8	8	69 – 77
Writing	8	6.5	6.0	7	7	69 – 78
OVERALL	-	-	7.0	-	8	-

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:

- Written reasons upon which the Registrar has made this determination.
- Notice that the applicant has the right to request that the Board of Assessors (BOA) review the reasons for the determination.
- Notice that the request for review 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.



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Language Requirement Attestation Process

1. A person may apply for the Language Requirement Attestation forms by submitting the Language Requirement Attestation Request form. Contact CMLTM for the request form via phone or email.
2. Requirements to qualify for the Language Requirement Attestation Process
 - a. An applicant that currently resides in Canada with intentions to practice as an MLT in Manitoba and,
 - b. 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, must complete CMLTM Language Attestation documents and submit directly to CMLTM, and,
 - c. the applicant has/had an employer in Canada where English was the primary language utilized and the employer completes the CMLTM Language Attestation documents and submit directly to CMLTM.

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](#)
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](#))
7. Language Proficiency Testing Policy published by the FRPO October 2024 [Language Proficiency Testing Policy](#)

Revision History

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



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- April 17, 2021
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- June 18, 2025
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