



# SSOT

Saskatchewan Society of  
Occupational Therapists

## R07 LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY POLICY

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	REGISTRATION
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b>	November 19, 2021
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	SSOT COUNCIL

### PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

Effective communication is one of the essential competencies of practice in occupational therapy and is critical for the delivery of safe and effective quality care.

All applicants applying for membership are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency.

### AUTHORITY

According to The Occupational Therapists Act, 1997, Section 14, regulatory bylaws may be made to set standards of professional conduct, competency and proficiency of members.

As per the SSOT Regulatory Bylaws Section 2.1 and 3.1, practising and restricted licence members must provide proof of English language proficiency.

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### *Evidence of English Language Proficiency*

1. Applicants are required to provide one of the following forms of **evidence of their English language proficiency** to the administrative assistant:
  - 1.1. a transcript and/or degree from an accredited English or bilingual Canadian occupational therapy program; or
  - 1.2. a transcript and/or degree from an accredited Canadian University that is proof of having completed a university degree in English; or
  - 1.3. a Substantial Equivalency Assessment Service (SEAS) report that states successful completion in English; or
  - 1.4. at least a minimum requisite score on an English Proficiency Test as set out in 1.3 with results sent directly from the testing agency; or
  - 1.5. proof that the applicant has previously met the English language proficiency required by another Canadian occupational therapy regulator as per the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the Labour Mobility Support Agreement (LMSA). Evidence of this language proficiency may be provided by the LMSA Confirmation Form or a Regulatory History Confirmation Form; or
  - 1.6. a signed declaration that his or her first language is English and confirming that he or she can speak and write English with reasonable fluency. The applicant may be required to provide evidence of language proficiency to the registrar which could include:
    - 1.6.1. evidence of experience with verbal communication, validated by letters of support, sent directly from third parties to the Society; or
    - 1.6.2. evidence of related health care employment where written documentation was required, validated by letters sent directly from third parties to the Society; or
  - 1.7. other evidence as presented by the applicant.

2. The registrar will review evidence submitted of English language proficiency to determine if it meets SSOT requirements.
3. SSOT recognizes the following approved third-party English language proficiency tests; minimum required scores are listed for each:
  - 3.1. **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):** TOEFL iBT® (Internet-based TOEFL)  
 Overall: 92 Speaking: 26 Listening: 22 Writing: 22 Reading: 22  
 For more information on the TOEFL test contact: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl).
  - 3.2. **International English Language Testing System (IELTS):** IELTS™ Academic  
 Overall: 7.0 Speaking: 7.5 Listening: 7.0 Writing: 6.5 Reading: 7.0  
 For more information on the IELTS test contact: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org);  
 In Canada: [www.ieltscanada.ca](http://www.ieltscanada.ca).
4. If an original document being submitted exists in a language other than English, the applicant must provide a notarized English translation of the document, with the cost of translation and notarization to be paid by the applicant.

Date Established	DATE(S) REVIEWED/REVISED	NEXT REVIEW
April 26, 2013	December 5, 2015 April 30, 2021 November 19, 2021	November 2024