COLLEGE OF DENTURISTS OF ONTARIO

TYPE	**Registration**
NAME	**Language Proficiency Requirements Policy**
DATE APPROVED BY BOARD	**December 12, 2014**
DATE REVISED BY BOARD	**March 22, 2019, December 6, 2019, September 7, 2021, December 9, 2022, June 14, 2024, September 18, 2026**

INTENT

This policy outlines the minimum language proficiency requirements that must be demonstrated in order to satisfy Section 4(3) of the Registration Regulation (O. Reg. 183/25), which requires that applicants must be able to speak, read and write in either English or French with reasonable fluency.

BACKGROUND

English and French are the official languages used in the health care system in Ontario. All health care professionals need to be able to communicate (speak, read and write) in either English or French with reasonable fluency.

Language proficiency assessments contribute to public protection by ensuring that registrants can communicate effectively with patients, other members of the health care team, and the College. Candidates, applicants and registrants must be able to communicate effectively with the College, Denturists must be able to understand and respond to College materials that are related to Registration, Quality Assurance, and Inquiries, Complaints & Reports and Discipline. Proficiency in English or French is an essential part of a Denturist's accountability to the College and to the public as a regulated health professional.

THE POLICY

An applicant whose first language is English or French and/or their relevant health care education and instruction was in English or French, is considered to have demonstrated reasonable fluency.

An applicant whose first language is not English or French, or who did not complete their relevant education and instruction in English or French, is required to demonstrate proficiency either through a test of language proficiency or by providing non-objective evidence of language proficiency at the time of application for a Certificate of Registration (COR).

While Qualifying Examination (QE) candidates are not required to provide proof of language proficiency prior to attempting the QE, language proficiency is an essential component for success in both the Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) and Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) portions of the Qualifying Examination.

Demonstrating Language Fluency

An applicant whose first language is not English or French, or who did not complete their relevant education and instruction in English or French, is required to either:

1. Complete a standardized language proficiency test administered by a recognized third-party testing agency and meet or exceed the minimum cut-off score for that test (Appendix A). The cut-off scores required in the recognized language tests reflect the minimum level of English or French language proficiency the College believes is necessary for an applicant to function successfully as a Denturist.

   Applicants are responsible for the cost of language proficiency tests.

   Test results will be considered valid for two (2) years from the date the test was administered and must be sent directly from the third-party testing agency to the College.

   OR

2. Provide non-objective evidence (NOE) of language proficiency. The College accepts alternatives to a standardized language proficiency test. An applicant who wishes to meet the language proficiency requirement through NOE of language proficiency must submit evidence supporting **at least two (2)** of the following:

   a. Successful completion of their relevant education in a majority English or French country.

   b. Relevant health care employment in a country in which English or French is the majority language, in a role with a scope of practice similar to that associated with the COR for which the application is being made.

   c. Successful completion of the four (4) final years of school in Canada that establishes eligibility to apply for university or college.

   d. Successful completion of a Canadian college or university degree.

An applicant who cannot provide sufficient evidence of language proficiency will have their COR application referred to the Registration Committee.

Extending the Period of Validity of Language Proficiency Test Scores

The College may extend the validity of an applicant's language proficiency test scores when the applicant meets **all** of the following decision criteria:

1. The applicant is actively engaged in or has recently successfully completed the education required to become registered as a Denturist.

2. The original test scores meet the language proficiency requirements outlined in Appendix A.

3. The original test scores have expired within the past two (2) years.

4. In the opinion of the Registrar, there is no other evidence to suggest the applicant is not sufficiently proficient in English or French to be a registrant of the College.

An extension to the validity of an applicant's language proficiency test scores is valid for a period of up to one (1) year. A second extension of up to one (1) year following the end of the first extension period may be requested. When an applicant's request for extension of the period of validity of test scores is denied, the application will be referred to the Registration Committee for review.

Appendix A: Recognized Language Proficiency Test & Cut-Scores

Language Proficiency Test	Minimum Score
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Overall minimum of 89 Including a minimum of: Reading: 20/30 Listening: 21/30 Speaking: 24/30 Writing: 21/30
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Overall minimum of 7.0 (academic and/or general training) Including a minimum of: Reading: 6.5 Listening: 7.0 Speaking: 7.0 Writing: 6.5
Canadian Academic English Language Test Computer Edition (CAEL CE)	A minimum of: Reading: 60 Listening: 60 Speaking: 60 Writing: 60
Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP)	A minimum of: Reading: 7.0 Listening: 7.0 Speaking: 7.0 Writing: 7.0
Pearson Test of English (PTE Core)	A minimum of: Reading: 60-68 Listening: 60-70 Speaking: 68-75 Writing: 69-78
Test de connaissance du français pour le Canada (TCF Canada)	A minimum of: Reading: 453-498 Listening: 458-502 Speaking: 10-11 Writing: 10-11
Test d'évaluation de français pour le Canada (TEF Canada)	A minimum of: Reading: 207-232 Listening: 249-279 Speaking: 310-348 Writing: 310-348

RELATED LEGISLATION

Ontario Regulation 183/25 (Registration)

REVISION CONTROL

Date	Revision	Effective
March 22, 2019	• Remove requirement for demonstration of language proficiency prior to attempt the Qualifying Examination • Add CLBA and CLBPT to list of accepted standardized test for English Language Proficiency • Update of minimum cut-off scores • Add "extending the period of validity of language proficiency test scores" provision • Add "acceptance of non-objective evidence (NOE) of language proficiency" provision	March 22, 2019
December 6, 2019	• Addition of CAEL CE and CELPIP to list of accepted standardized tests for English Language Proficiency	December 6, 2019
September 7, 2021	• Removed references to CanTEST (the Canadian test of English or French for Scholars and Trainees) due to their discontinuation of testing services	September 7, 2021
December 9, 2022	• Addition of TCF Canada and TEF Canada to list of accepted standardized tests for French Language Proficiency	December 9, 2022
June 14, 2024	• Addition of Pearson Test of English to list of accepted standardized tests for English Language Proficiency	June 14, 2024
September 18, 2026	• Updates to the policy to ensure harmony with O. Reg. 183/25 (Registration). Removal of the Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment and Placement Test (CLBA, CLBPT) due to discontinuation of the two tests.	September 18, 2026