



Registration Guide

for Alberta Applicants

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Introduction

The College of Acupuncturists of Alberta (College) serves the public interest and safety by setting high standards of practice, education, competence, and ethical conduct for acupuncturists.

To practice as an acupuncturist in Alberta or use the protected title or designation, you must be registered with the College and hold a valid practice permit.

This guide outlines the registration process, requirements, and obligations for individuals seeking to become a registered acupuncturist in Alberta.

Registration Requirements

You must meet all the following requirements to be eligible for registration with the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta.

Education

You must complete an acupuncture program recognized by the College. If your education was obtained outside of Alberta, you must provide evidence demonstrating that your program is substantially equivalent to a recognized acupuncture program in Alberta.

EDUCATION JURISDICTION	ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE
Alberta	Diploma and official transcripts from a recognized acupuncture program. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MacEwan University, Edmonton• Alberta College of Acupuncture & Traditional Chinese Medicine, Calgary• Calgary College of Traditional Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture, Calgary• Canadian Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture, Calgary
Canada (outside of Alberta)	Diploma, official transcripts, detailed course outlines, and program curriculum, including total theoretical, practical, and clinical hours, as well as the number of patient visits completed during clinical training. OR A list of recognized acupuncture programs in Canada can be found here, Recognized Acupuncture Programs in Canada .
International	Education Credential Assessment (ECA) from an approved organization confirming at least three years of training in Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, or Medicine focused on Chinese Medicine. Additional documentation may be required. Detailed information on obtaining an ECA can be found at Educational credential assessment - Canada.ca

Examination

You must successfully pass all components of the Alberta Acupuncturist Registration Examination (AARE) to be eligible for registration as an acupuncturist.

There are two exceptions to the examination requirement.

1. If you're already a regulated member in another jurisdiction under the *Labour Mobility Act*.
2. If you possess education or experience deemed equivalent by the Registrar.

The AARE is offered twice a year and consists of the following components:

- **Pan-Canadian Acupuncturists Examination** (Administered by CARB-TCMPA)
- **CAA Safety & Jurisprudence Examination** (Administered by the College)
- **CAA Modalities Examination** (Administered by the College)
- **CAA Acupuncture Points Examination** (Administered by the College)



The AARE is administered twice a year, in the **Spring** and **Fall**.

If you completed an acupuncture program outside of Alberta and passed the Pan-Canadian Acupuncturist Examination (PCE) but are not regulated in another jurisdiction, you must provide proof of passing the PCE and successfully pass the remaining components of the AARE.

What is CARB-TCMPA?

The Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB-TCMPA) administers the Pan-Canadian Entry-Level Examinations in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Acupuncture.

These examinations evaluate the essential competencies required for safe, competent, and ethical practice at the entry level. Successful completion of the Pan-Canadian Examinations is a mandatory requirement for registration as a TCM Practitioner, Acupuncturist, or TCM Herbalist, in addition to meeting other provincial regulatory requirements.

Jurisprudence Examination

You must successfully pass the jurisprudence examination. The jurisprudence examination ensures registered acupuncturists in Alberta have the necessary knowledge to practice safely within the legislative framework that exists in Alberta, and you understand your professional role and responsibilities.

If you are registering under the *Labour Mobility Act* and are currently licensed in another jurisdiction, you are required to pass the Jurisprudence Examination as part of the registration process.

Currency in Practice

To be eligible for registration, you must have obtained your diploma from a recognized acupuncture program within the three years preceding the submission of your completed application.

If you completed your education more than three years ago and do not meet the currency-in-practice requirement you can demonstrate your eligibility by:

- Completing **upgrading** or additional **College-approved courses** to the satisfaction of the Registrar or Registration Committee, OR
- Practicing under the **supervision** of an approved regulated member, OR

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- Submitting **Appointment records** covering the past three years, OR
- Submitting **employment verification letter** from the past three years, which must:
 - Be on official employer letterhead
 - Include the employer's signature, title, and date
 - State the employment start and end dates
 - Describe job duties and responsibilities
 - Specify weekly work hours or the number of patients treated

Currency in practice is a **registration requirement** that ensures an applicant's **education** and **clinical skills** are recent and up to date.

Fitness to Practice

You are required to declare any physical or mental condition(s) or disorder(s) that may impair your ability to provide safe, competent, and ethical care. These conditions may include mental illness, physical illness, substance abuse, and addictions. You are required to declare if you are under the care of physician or healthcare team and if you are following medical advice.

Citizenship

You must provide evidence that you are a Canadian citizen or are lawfully admitted to and entitled to work in Canada. The following will be accepted.

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Canadian citizenship certificate
- Permanent resident card
- Valid work visa/permit

Identification

You must provide two **different** pieces of identification. A minimum of one primary identification is required.

PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION	SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driver's License• Learner's License• Government Identification Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Identification Card (student card)• Foreign birth certificate (a baptismal certificate is not acceptable)• Canadian or U.S. driver's license• Secure Certificate of Indian Status• Naturalization certificate• Canadian Forces identification• Vehicle registration (only if applicant's signature is shown)

Good Character and Reputation

You must provide evidence of good character and reputation through one or more of the following:

- **Letter of good standing** or registration verification from the regulatory body governing acupuncturists or another health profession in any jurisdiction where you are currently or previously registered.
- **Current criminal record and vulnerable sector check**, obtained from the local police service. The check is valid for six months.
- **Two written references** related to your acupuncture practice, which may come from an employer, educational institution, or, where applicable, colleagues. Not applicable for LMA applicants.

NOTE:
criminal record
checks from **private**
third-party providers
are not **accepted**.

For internationally educated applicants who have recently immigrated to Canada, a notarized copy of an Immigration Identification Card or Permanent Resident Card may be submitted, provided the police check used to obtain the card was issued within the last six months.

What happens if a criminal record is disclosed?

A past criminal conviction does not exclude you from registration. If a criminal record & vulnerable sector check presents any occurrences, your application will need further review. You may be required to submit additional information, which could include:

- A copy of any related court decision(s)
- A copy of the police report(s) related to the occurrence
- Any additional information that assists the College to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for good character and reputation

The Registrar will review the details of any prior convictions, considering factors such as:

- The nature and seriousness of the offence(s)
- The relevance of the offence to acupuncture practice
- The sentence received, if any
- Whether a pardon was granted
- The amount of time since the occurrence
- The applicant's behavior and character after the offence
- Any other relevant evidence regarding the applicant's character

All information provided will remain strictly confidential.

English Language Requirements

If English is not your first language, you must provide English proficiency test results from one of the following designated agencies.

- **IELTS:** General or Academic, with a minimum band score of 6.0 in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- **TOEFL:** Minimum score of 15 in Listening, 18 in Speaking, 15 in Reading and 22 in Writing.

You may qualify for an exemption from the English Language Proficiency requirement if one of the following applies.

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- You have completed high school in Canada or another country where the primary language of instruction is English. Must include Alberta Grade 12 (or equivalent).
- You have completed post-secondary education in Canada or another country where the primary language of instruction is English.
- Proof from a current or past registering body that you have met a requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English imposed by that current or past registering body.
- A letter or other evidence from an employer confirming that you are competent to practice acupuncture in English.

Professional Liability Insurance

You must provide evidence of a minimum \$2,000,000 per claim in professional liability insurance (PLI) coverage in your own name. The PLI policy must specify “Acupuncture Services” and include disciplinary legal defense and expenses with a minimum of \$25,000 per claim and an annual aggregate of \$50,000. PLI insurance is also referred to as Errors and Omissions.

Commercial general liability (CGL) is optional coverage and **NOT** required for registration.

Proof of payment or policy summary letters are not accepted as valid evidence of insurance coverage.

First Aid and CPR Certification

You must provide evidence of, at minimum, standard/intermediate first aid and CPR-C with AED. The certificate must indicate:

- Level of first aid certification
- Recipient name
- Expiry date and
- Training provider, which must be approved by [Alberta Occupational Health and Safety](#).

TIP:
Both **First Aid**
AND **CPR**
certification are
required.

Examples of acceptable First aid and CPR training

Levels of CPR		Levels of First Aid
Basic Life Support (BLS) (Formerly HCP)	ACCEPTABLE	First Responder
CPR-C with AED (Automated External Defibrillator)		Advanced
CPR-B		Standard/Intermediate
CPR-A	NOT ACCEPTABLE	Emergency
		Basic

Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Training

You must complete the College's approved prevention training on Protecting Patients from Sexual Abuse and Misconduct.

Registration Categories

Under the *Acupuncturists Profession Regulation*, the three regulated registration categories are:

General Register

The general register is for new graduates who have passed the registration exam and/or have met upgrading requirements; or have been registered through equivalent jurisdiction (labour mobility) or substantial equivalency routes.

Courtesy Register

The courtesy register is for regulated acupuncturists in good standing in another jurisdiction with substantially equivalent competencies and practice requirements. Registration is on a temporary basis and for a specified purpose.

Provisional Register

The provisional register is an optional register for new graduates who are taking registration examination but have not yet passed and wish to work under supervision until they have done so. Applicants must first obtain a diploma from an acupuncture program to be eligible.

General and courtesy register may use the following **authorized designations**:


Doctor of acupuncture, Dr. Ac.
Acupuncturist, R. Ac. or Ac.

Provisional register may use the title:
Intern Acupuncturist

NOT an authorized designation:

Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, DTCM

How to Register



Documents must be **authentic** and in **English**. Documents in other languages must be **translated**.

You must apply by first creating a member portal account. Once an account has been created and confirmed, you will be able to apply online to become a registered acupuncturist.

Support for creating a member portal account and how to complete an online application can be found on the College website using the following link: [Member Portal Support](#).

Alternately, you may also contact the College directly for support.

Registration Application Review Process

The College will begin reviewing an application only after it is complete. This includes all required documents, credentials, and applicable fees. Incomplete applications will be withdrawn after one year.

Application review process timeline:

- **Up to 5 business days** for email confirmation of receipt.
- **Up to 5 business days** for the College to review the application and documents. You will be notified if additional information is required.
- **Up to 10 business days** to process a complete application and issue a decision letter.

Possible outcomes include:

- Approval
- Approval with conditions or limitations
- Referral to the Registration or Competence Committee
- Refusal

If you receive a decision that is subject to conditions, deferred, or refused you may request a review by Council within 30 days of receiving the decision.

The request must be submitted in writing to the Registrar, clearly stating the reasons your application should be approved (with or without conditions) and must be accompanied by payment of any applicable fees.

NOTE:

Some applications may be more **complex** and take longer than the **standard timeline**.



Registration & Exam Checklists

- [Alberta Acupuncturist Registration Examination](#)
- [New Alberta Graduates](#)
- [Canadian Graduates Outside of Alberta](#)
- [Internationally Educated Graduates](#)
- [LMA \(Current British Columbia, Newfoundland, Ontario, and Quebec Registrants\)](#)
- [Provisional Applicants](#)
- [Courtesy Applicants](#)