



English Language Proficiency

1. Introduction

An acupuncturist must be able to communicate effectively in English with patients, other professionals, and the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta (the “College”). Pursuant to the *Health Professions Act* and the College’s bylaws, applicants for registration must provide evidence of English language proficiency.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the approved English language proficiency exams, minimum acceptable scores, and exemptions.

3. Definitions

Applicant: An individual who applies to the College to become a regulated member in the province of Alberta.

4. Policy

- 4.1 The language of practice for acupuncturists in Alberta is English.
- 4.2 An **applicant** must demonstrate English language proficiency in speaking, listening, writing, and reading to practise acupuncture safely and competently in the province of Alberta.

English Language Proficiency Exams

- 4.3 An **applicant** must demonstrate English language proficiency by achieving an acceptable score on an English language proficiency exam approved by the Registrar or by meeting one of the exemption criteria set out in 4.9.
- 4.4 The following English language proficiency exams and acceptable scores are approved:

Approved exam	Acceptable score
CELP-PIP-General	Minimum score of 8 in each component.
IELTS Academic	Minimum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: 7.0 • Writing: 6.5 • Listening: 7.0 • Speaking: 6.5



PTE Core	Minimum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: 78 • Writing: 79 • Listening: 71 • Speaking: 76
----------	---

- 4.5 Exam results must be sent directly to the College from the examining organization.
- 4.6 Exam results must have been obtained within twenty-four (24) months prior to the date of the application for registration.

Registrar Discretion

- 4.7 The Registrar may require additional evidence of English language proficiency where there are reasonable grounds to believe an **applicant** cannot practise safely and competently in Alberta, including the ability to complete clinical documentation and communicate with patients, other health professionals, emergency services, and the College in English.

Exemptions

- 4.8 Evidence provided under this section must demonstrate English language proficiency across speaking, listening, reading, and writing sufficient to practise safely and competently.
 - 4.8.1 Self-declaration or completion of written examinations alone does not constitute sufficient evidence of English language proficiency.
 - 4.8.2 An interview on its own does not constitute sufficient evidence of English language proficiency.
- 4.9 The English language proficiency requirement may be met if the **applicant** satisfies one of the following criteria.
 - 4.9.1 Is currently or was previously registered to practise in a Canadian jurisdiction, and the **applicant** met a substantive and verifiable English language proficiency requirement of that regulatory body. The Registrar may require additional evidence where the language proficiency requirement of the originating jurisdiction is not comparable.
 - 4.9.2 Provides a letter or other evidence from an employer confirming the **applicant** is competent to practise acupuncture in English in a clinical setting. To enable the employer to accurately assess whether the **applicant** is competent to practice acupuncture in English, the employer must have employed the **applicant** as an acupuncturist for pay for a period of at least one (1) year.
 - 4.9.3 Completed professional education in English. A professional education program is in English where that program required and assessed English language proficiency for admission, and where instruction, clinical training, and patient interaction were conducted in English. The **applicant** must provide verifiable evidence of the English language proficiency requirement used for admission to the program.



- 4.9.4 Completed secondary education in English. Secondary education is in English where the secondary education is in a jurisdiction where English is the primary language of instruction and assessment and the applicant achieved a minimum grade of 60% in grade 12 English or equivalent.
- 4.10 If an **applicant** does not satisfy any of the criteria in sections 4.9.1 to 4.9.4, the **applicant** must demonstrate English language proficiency by achieving an acceptable score on an approved English language proficiency exam in accordance with sections 4.3 to 4.6.

5. Authority

This policy is established under the authority of s. 28(1)(f) of the *Health Professions Act* and the College's bylaws.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all **applicants** for registration.

7. Related Policies and Procedures

- Bylaws

8. Version History

Date	Notes
May 27, 2026	New policy