

1. Purpose

English is the main language of communication in the province of British Columbia¹. As such, applicants seeking membership with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC), regardless of their country of origin, must possess/demonstrate a minimum level of English language proficiency (ELP) to provide competent, safe, and quality clinical counselling and psychotherapeutic services. Additionally, language proficiency enhances public protection by ensuring that the Association's members can communicate appropriately both verbally and in writing in a variety of settings.

At a minimum, a member who is proficient in their use of English must be able to do the following:

- Understand and apply BCACC's Code of Ethical Conduct, Standards of Practice, and Bylaws; and
- Meet BCACC's Continuing Competency/Quality Assurance Program requirements; and
- Communicate and provide care to clients at the standard expected of a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC); and
- Communicate, collaborate, and work with other professionals within and outside of the healthcare industry, as well as engage with the BC and Canadian healthcare systems within which they work; and
- Conduct their business in a way that complies with all the laws (regulations and professional requirements/obligations) of the jurisdiction(s) in which they practice.

In accordance with BCACC's Constitution and Part 2 section 3 of the BCACC Bylaws, BCACC regulates the professional practice of its members through a code of ethical conduct and standards of practice, sets entry criteria and evaluates an applicant's qualifications before granting membership into the association.

This policy outlines information about the ELP requirement for applicants seeking membership with BCACC.

2. Policy

A) An applicant seeking membership with BCACC must provide evidence to validate English language proficiency in their application in at least one of the following ways:

- Possession of a conferred master's degree from a post-secondary institution in which the primary language of instruction is English; or

¹ [WelcomeBC/Languages in BC webpage](#)

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- Holds current registration in good standing² with another Canadian counselling/psychotherapy regulatory body; or

B) If an applicant is not able to provide evidence of English language proficiency through any of the options noted above, they may provide proof in the following manner:

- Successful completion of one of the following English language proficiency tests acceptable to the BCACC Board, and achievement of the minimum scores identified³ by BCACC:

Language Proficiency Test	Minimum Score Required
IELTS Academic or IELTS General	An overall average score of 7 with a minimum score of 6.5 in each category IELTS One Skill Retake is not accepted
TOEFL iBT	An overall average score of 94 with a minimum of 22 in each category TOEFL Essential and TOEFL My Best are not accepted
CELPPIP – General Test	CELPPIP Level 8 CELPPIP – General LS is not accepted

Applicants must provide a valid test result at the time of application submission⁴ and provide documentation in a form determined acceptable to the Board. An extension for submission of a completed application file may be granted at the discretion of the BCACC Registration Staff.

3. Exceptions

The applicant does not need to provide proof of ELP, if they meet one or more criteria listed in Section 2A of this policy.

Proof of ELP is not required for applicants who have received relevant education and training from countries listed in Appendix A.

² If an applicant is or has been previously registered with another Canadian health profession's regulatory college and was required to provide evidence of completing a bridging program, the applicant may use that certificate/documentation as proof of their English language proficiency when applying to BCACC.

³ All required scoring benchmarks must be achieved in a single test attempt.

⁴ All test score reports are valid for two years from the date of the report.

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APPENDIX A: Countries Exempt from Providing Proof of English Language Proficiency

American Samoa	Grenada	Saint Vincent and the
Anguilla	Guam	Grenadines
Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana	Seychelles
Australia	Ireland	Sierra Leone
Bahamas	Jamaica	Singapore
Barbados	Kenya	South Africa
Belize	Lesotho	Tanzania, United Republic of
Bermuda	Liberia	Trinidad and Tobago
Botswana	Malta	Turks and Caicos Islands
Canada	Mauritius	Uganda
Cayman Islands	Montserrat	United Kingdom
Dominica	New Zealand	United States
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Nigeria	Virgin Islands (British)
Fiji	Pacific Islands	Virgin Islands (U.S.)
Gambia	Saint Helena	Zambia
Ghana	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Zimbabwe
Gibraltar	Saint Lucia	