



REGISTRATION POLICY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE FOR ENTRY TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Version 1.0, January 30, 2026

Words and terms that are capitalized throughout this document have definitions that are specific to this set of policies. Please refer to these Defined Terms when reviewing this and other registration policy documents.

PURPOSE

To articulate methods for Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia to ensure an Applicant's competence in the English language before granting registration as a professional engineer, professional geoscientist, professional licensee engineering, or professional licensee geoscience with respect to the and those sections of the Bylaws (ss. 5.6(4)(c)(iii), 5.7(4)(c)(iii), 5.8(5)(d)(iii) and 5.9(5)(d)(iii)) which require that "the Applicant has obtained the necessary level of competency in English to engage in the Regulated Practice in British Columbia".

POLICY

All Applicants for registration, regardless of country of origin or of citizenship status, will be required to demonstrate competence in the English language prior to the granting of registration. Competence is expected in all four of the following skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing¹.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Credentials Committee may accept without further examination the English language competency of an Applicant who holds registration or licensure as the equivalent of a professional engineer or professional geoscientist In Good Standing with a Regulatory Authority for engineering or geoscience in another jurisdiction in Canada.

¹ Applicants with a medical condition that interferes or prevents them from listening, reading, speaking or writing can request accommodations from Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia staff or the Credentials Committee, who will work with such Applicants on appropriate accommodations.

The relevant Communication competencies for engineering and geoscience from the Competency Assessment System are summarized below:

	Communication Competencies
Engineering	2.1 – Oral Communication 2.2 – Written Communication 2.3 – Reading and Comprehension
Geoscience	4.1 – Deliver and comprehend oral communication 4.2 – Deliver and comprehend written communication 4.3 – Communicate technical information effectively to a variety of audiences

OUTCOME 1: MEETING ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY WITHOUT FURTHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING

Applicants can meet English language competency without further English language testing if they meet the following sets of criteria:

Scenario	Communication Competency Levels	Work Environment Primary Language*	Degree Primary Language	Outcome
A	All at a level of 3.0 or above.	English	English	Meets English language requirement
B	All at a level of 3.0 or above.	English	Other Language	Meets English language requirement

* “Work Environment Primary Language” is indicated through an Applicant’s employment history in their competency report submission and confirmed by Validator feedback.

OUTCOME 2: ASSIGNMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING

Applicants may be required to demonstrate English language competency through one of three available third-party options if the Applicant falls under one of the following categories:

Scenario	Communication Competency Levels	Work Environment Primary Language	Degree Primary Language	Outcome
C	All at a level of 3.0 or above.	Other Language	Other Language	<p>The Credentials Committee assigns the Duolingo English Test. Applicants must achieve the minimum score of 130-135 – equivalent to IELTS-Academic level 7.</p> <p>The Applicant may complete CAEL Online or IELTS-Academic in lieu.</p> <p>See Category E for scoring definitions and equivalence.</p>
D	One or more are below 3.0	English	English	<p>The Credentials Committee assigns the Duolingo English Test. Applicants must achieve the minimum score of 130-135 – equivalent to IELTS-Academic level 7.</p> <p>The Applicant may complete CAEL Online or IELTS-Academic in lieu.</p> <p>See Category E for scoring definitions and equivalence.</p>
E	One or more are below 3.0	Other Language	Other Language/ English	<p>The Credentials Committee assigns the CAEL Online or IELTS-Academic (Applicant's choice on which to complete).</p> <p>The Applicant must achieve a minimum score of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS-Academic level = 7.0 • CAEL Online = 70

In the case that the Duolingo English test is assigned to an Applicant, the Applicant may elect to take the CAEL Online or IELTS-Academic in lieu. However, if the Applicant is assigned the CAEL Online or IELTS-Academic, the Duolingo English test cannot be used to satisfy the requirement in lieu.

The outcomes outlined above are intended to provide transparency and objectivity during the assignment of an English language test. This policy is not intended to fetter the discretion of the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee reserves the ability to assign any of the recommended English language tests if there is a concern that an Applicant's current ability to communicate in English directly or indirectly impacts public safety (for example, Assessor comments, Validator comments, or correspondence with staff indicate issues with English-language communication). The Credentials Committee may also exempt candidates from completing an English language test if the Applicant appears to have met the requirement (i.e., the Applicant falls into Categories A or B).

RELATED POLICIES

Please refer to the [Registration and Reinstatement Policies](#) page to view all relevant policies.

VERSION HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1.0	January 30, 2026	Initial version.