

## 2.1.2 English Language Proficiency Standard

### POLICY

To facilitate student success, the College of the Rockies (the College) has established English language proficiency requirements for admission to College programs. Applicants for admission to College programs shall be required to meet language proficiency requirements of the program.

The College supports students in improving their language skills while studying at the College. Applicants who do not meet the minimum level of language proficiency will be given the opportunity to improve their English language proficiency through the College's English Language or Upgrading Programs.

### PURPOSE

English is the primary language of instruction at the College, and all applicants, regardless of country of origin or citizenship status, will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the English language prior to admissions to College programs. Proficiency is expected in all four of the following skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

This policy is developed as per the *College and Institute Act* 19(1)(f) and 23(1)(m) and specifies the minimum English language requirements for admission to studies at the College.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all College programs, including Continuing Education programs leading to a certificate of achievement, completion, or participation. Applicants whose first language is not English, or who have received their primary education in a language other than English, are required to provide proof of English language proficiency.

### DEFINITIONS

**CEGEP:** A publicly funded pre-university college in the province of Quebec's education system (Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel).

**Post-secondary:** Education beyond high school offered by colleges, universities, and vocational schools that provide certificates and diplomas, associate degrees and undergraduate degrees, as well as developmental programs that prepare adult learners for post-secondary studies.

**Proficiency:** A degree of competence or skill as defined in the Guidelines below.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **A. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Applicants may demonstrate English language proficiency by one of the following:

A. 1 Applicants who have completed instruction in or outside Canada.

A. 1. 1 Applicants who have completed instruction in Canada must achieve one of the following:

- A minimum final grade of 65% in BC English 12 (not including an English as a Second Language course) or equivalent (as listed in Appendix A) from an approved school or country where English is the principal language; or
- Three consecutive years of recognized, full-time education in English in Canada. Such education must be the completion of BC Grade 12 level or equivalent, and can be a combination of secondary and post-secondary education; or
- Four consecutive years of recognized full-time instruction in a school/institution in Canada in which the primary language of instruction is other than English, but where the level of English proficiency required is equivalent to that in English-language schools or institutions in Canada. Such education must be the completion of BC Grade 12 level or equivalent, and can be in a combination of secondary and post-secondary education (this will include applicants from CEGEPs who have completed English as a first language).

A. 1. 2 Applicants who completed instruction outside of Canada must achieve one of the following:

- Three consecutive years of recognized full-time education in English in a country other than Canada where English is the principal language, as determined by the College (see Appendix B). Such education must be the completion of BC Grade 12 level or equivalent, and can be in a combination of secondary and post-secondary education. Years completed in a recognized international school where English is the language of instruction may be eligible for inclusion in the required years of instruction; or
- Four consecutive years of recognized instruction at an eligible international secondary school that uses English as the language of instruction but operates in a country where the primary language is not English. These four years must be immediately prior to attending the College. Applicants will need to submit a transcript as soon as possible to the Admissions Office.

- A. 2 Graduation from a recognized degree program at an accredited institution at which English is the primary language of instruction and in a country where English is the principal language.
- A. 3 Successful completion of 6 credits of post-secondary first-year English studies for which the College grants transfer credit.
- A. 4 The proficiency standard indicated on one of the tests or courses of English language proficiency as listed in Appendix A, evaluates skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. All English language proficiency tests used as a basis for admissions must be valid.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

- [2.1.1 Admissions](#)
- [2.5.6 Transfer Credit \(As a Receiving Institution\)](#)

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **Tests or Courses That Satisfy the English Language Proficiency:**

1. TOEFL iBT - TOEFL Internet-based test, Overall 80 with minimum 13 in Reading, 21 in Writing, 12 in Listening, 18 in Speaking;
2. LPI - Language Proficiency Index 5;
3. PTE Academic - Pearson Test of English (Academic) Overall 50 with minimum 50 in Reading, 50 in Writing, 50 in Listening, 50 in Speaking;
4. IELTS Academic - International English language testing system:
  - Direct entry academic program requirements: Overall 6.0 with no band less than 6.0
  - Conditional admit requirements: Overall 6.0 with no band less than 5.5
  - English Language Program pathway: Less than 6.0 overall
5. Minimum 65% in BC English 12, English First Peoples (EFP 12), ENGL 090 - English - Provincial Level, ENGL 091 - English Provincial Level (Technical and Professional English), or COMC 100 - Written and Oral Communication Skills, or equivalent courses (please refer to the program admission requirements or course prerequisite information to determine the minimum grade required); or
6. Minimum 85% in College of the Rockies' ELP 89 - College Prep English or ELP 98 - Academic Skills for College Preparation; or
7. Equivalent standardized test score as determined by College of the Rockies.

Test results must be dated no more than two years before the start date of the program.

## Appendix B: Countries That Satisfy English Proficiency

Applicants from the following countries are recognized as having met the English Proficiency requirement, with the following condition:

Three consecutive years of recognized full-time education in English. Such education must be the completion of BC Grade 12 level or equivalent, and can be in a combination of secondary and post-secondary education. Years completed in a recognized international school where English is the language of instruction may be eligible for inclusion in the required years of instruction.

American Samoa	Mauritius
Anguilla	Montserrat
Antigua & Barbuda	New Zealand
Australia	Nigeria
Bahamas	Northern Ireland
Barbados	Seychelles
Bermuda	Singapore
Belize	South Africa
Botswana	St. Helena
Canada	St. Kitts & Nevis
Cayman Islands	St. Lucia
Dominica	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
England	Scotland
Falkland Islands	Tanzania
Fiji	Trinidad & Tobago
Ghana	Turks and Caicos Islands
Gibraltar	Uganda
Grenada	USA
Guam	Virgin Islands (British)
Guyana	Virgin Islands (US)
Ireland (Republic of Eire)	Wales
Jamaica	Zambia
Kenya	Zimbabwe
Malta	