

**AMENDED Administrative Policy No: 009**

To: Council  
From: Regulations Committee and Registrar  
Date: June 14, 2022  
Re: Administrative Policy for SCO English Language Proficiency Requirements

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Effective communication with patients and interprofessional team members is an essential competency for the practice of opticianry.

In order to assist the Registration Committee with consistency in the application of language proficiency requirements set out in Subparagraph 3(2)(c) and 3(5)(a) of the Regulatory Bylaws, it shall be the policy of the Registration Committee to administer the provisions as follows:

- (1) Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate language proficiency in the English language by obtaining the minimum scores of the general International English Language Testing System (IELTS);
- (2) Applicants that have completed the Test of English Language Testing System Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT) may have their results compared to the academic IELTS standards to determine whether the applicant's results are equal or comparable to academic IELTS standards;
- (3) Where the general IELTS results do not meet the required minimum scores, the applicant will be required to take any language training needed to meet the general IELTS standards prior to consideration for registration as a member of the College or PLAR.
- (4) English language proficiency results will not be accepted if the results are older than two years.

**Minimum scores accepted for general IELTS:**

Speaking: 6; Listening: 7.5; Reading: 6; Writing: 6. The overall score minimum is 6.5

**Approved by Council June 14, 2022**