COPR OCRP
Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators
Organisation Canadienne des Régulateurs Paramédicaux

Paramedic Equivalency Assessment System for International Applicants

Pre-Approved Pathway

Applicant Handbook

September 1, 2026

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Introduction

In Canada, provincial paramedic regulators have the legislated authority to grant registration, licensure, and certification to individuals to practice as EMRs and paramedics. Many of these regulators utilize the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) to assist them in assessing credentials of international applicants prior to those applicants completing provincial regulatory requirements. COPR's international assessment is called the **Paramedic Equivalency Assessment System (PEAS).**

Note: The terms registration, licensure, and certification are used across Canada, and for the purposes of this handbook, the term **registration** will be used.

EMRs and paramedics in Canada are regulated using two different models: self-regulated or government regulated. In Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, EMRs and paramedics are self-regulated, while those in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador are government regulated. EMRs and Paramedics are not yet regulated in the Territories.

EMR and Paramedic Designations in Canada

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
EMRs have basic training, including resuscitation and theoretical and practical training in life-saving and patient assessment skills. EMRs provide fundamental out-of-hospital care, working with other health care providers in a wide variety of settings or providing care at events or in remote locations.

Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)
PCPs have paramedic-specific education and provide context specific basic life support and patient care in a wide variety of settings. They collaborate with other health care providers. When appropriate, PCPs hand over care to other team members in a clinical setting or at transfer of care, or discharge following assessment and treatment.

Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)
ACPs have enhanced paramedic-specific education that builds on PCP education. ACPs provide context-specific, advanced life support and patient care for medically complex patients. They collaborate with other health care providers. When appropriate, ACPs hand over care to other team members or engage in transfer of care or discharge patients following assessment and treatment.

Critical Care Paramedic (CCP)*
CCPs have specialized and multidisciplinary education that builds on PCP and ACP education so that they can provide context-specific, tertiary-level care for medically complex and undifferentiated patients. CCPs are expected to work autonomously in the provision of complex care to high-acuity patients. CCPs might have enhanced independent practice because they have few other health care providers who are immediately able to assist in patient care. CCPs often work in or lead highly specialized teams within the health care or public safety systems or as independent practitioners. ****PEAS does not include assessment for the CCP designation.***

About the Pre-Approved Pathway

The pre-approved jurisdictions were identified based on an analysis of the jurisdictions from which COPR most frequently receives applications and were subsequently evaluated for comparability to Canadian paramedicine practice with consideration given to the following criteria:

A. Legislative and Governance Frameworks
B. Registration Requirements
C. Qualification Pathways
D. Entry-to-Practice (ETP) (or equivalent) Exam
E. Language Policy
F. Competence Framework
G. Scope of Practice and Autonomy
H. Levels of Practice
I. Education System and Program Accreditation
    - Education Purpose & Depth
    - Curriculum
    - Clinical Placements & Experiential Learning

The following jurisdictions are included in the Pre-Approved Pathway:

- Australia
- New Zealand
- Qatar
- Republic of Ireland
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Additional jurisdictions are under review and may be added to the Pre-Approved Pathway.

Selecting an Assessment Pathway

Canadian Provincial Regulators that participate in PEAS:
Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan.

Canadian Provincial Regulators that do not participate in PEAS:
British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Quebec. Contact the appropriate provincial regulator directly for information about international assessment options in these provinces.

COPR offers two assessment pathways:

Pre-Approved Pathway: A streamlined pathway for applicants from jurisdictions that have been pre-determined to meet substantial equivalency requirements.

Select this pathway if:
- You intend to work where the provincial paramedic regulator participates in PEAS
- You meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document
- You are seeking the pre-approved paramedicine designation

Standard Assessment Pathway: An assessment pathway for applicants from jurisdictions without pre-approval.

Select this pathway if:
- You intend to work where the provincial paramedic regulator participates in PEAS
- You have completed relevant paramedicine education and wish to be assessed for equivalency for a Canadian designation
- You are educated and/or licensed in a jurisdiction that does not have a pre-approved pathway
  OR
- You meet the eligibility criteria for the pre-approved pathway and wish to be assessed for a designation other than the pre-approved designation (for example, your jurisdiction is approved for PCP and you wish to be assessed as an ACP and additional education has been completed)

Pre-Approved Pathway Eligibility

To apply for the Pre-Approved Pathway, applicants must have completed appropriate paramedicine education **and** hold active registration from the **same pre-approved country**. Applicants who do not meet both requirements must apply through the Standard Assessment Pathway.

However, applicants from Qatar who hold a Critical Care Paramedic license in Qatar with education from outside Qatar that is recognized by the Department of Healthcare Professions are eligible for the pre-approved pathway. Details are provided in the charts below.

Example 1: Sofia completed paramedic education in Brazil and is registered as a Paramedic in Australia. To request a credential assessment through COPR, Sofia must select the Standard Assessment Pathway because the eligibility criteria for the Pre-Approved Pathway are not met.

Example 2: Oliver completed paramedic education in New Zealand and is registered as a Paramedic in the UK. To request a credential assessment through COPR, Oliver must select the Standard Assessment Pathway because the eligibility criteria for the Pre-Approved Pathway are not met

Emergency Medical Responder

Jurisdiction	Pre-Approved Designation	Paramedicine Educational Requirement	Registration Requirement
United States of America	Emergency Medical Responder	State-approved EMT or AEMT educational program, from a State that has adopted National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification.	Registration as an EMT or AEMT with the NREMT **and** hold state registration

Primary Care Paramedic

Jurisdiction	Pre-Approved Designation	Paramedicine Educational Requirement	Registration Requirement
Australia**	Primary Care Paramedic	Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Paramedicine Board, Paramedicine Accreditation Committee. AQF Level 6/7.	Registration as a Paramedic with the Paramedicine Board via the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.
New Zealand**	Primary Care Paramedic	Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Paramedic Council of New Zealand. NZQCF Level 7.	Registration as a Paramedic with the Paramedic Council of New Zealand.
Qatar	Primary Care Paramedic	BSc in Paramedicine from the University of Doha for Science and Technology. *Graduates of the former diploma program may apply for a Standard assessment.*	Registration as a Paramedic with the Department of Health Professions.
Republic of Ireland	Primary Care Paramedic	Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) QQI level 8	Registration as a Paramedic with PHECC.

South Africa**	Primary Care Paramedic	Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Professional Board for Emergency Care (Health Professions Board of South Africa). NQF Level 8.	Registration as an Emergency Care Practitioner (ECP) with the Professional Board for Emergency Care via the Health Professions Board of South Africa.
United Kingdom**	Primary Care Paramedic	Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Health and Care Professions Council. RQF 6 or SCQF 9 in Scotland.	Registration as a Paramedic with the Health and Care Professions Council.
United States of America	Primary Care Paramedic	Completion of a CAAHEP-accredited paramedic program	Registration as a Paramedic from the NREMT **and** hold state registration.

**While the Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine participates in PEAS, applicants from these jurisdictions interested in working in Nova Scotia should contact the regulator directly as other assessment options exist.

Advanced Care Paramedic

Jurisdiction	Pre-Approved Designation	Paramedicine Educational Requirement	Registration Requirement
Qatar	Advanced Care Paramedic	BSc in Paramedicine from the University of Doha for Science and Technology. *Graduates of the former diploma program must apply for a Standard assessment.* Graduates of international paramedicine education recognized by the Qatar Department of Health Professions	Registration as a Critical Care Paramedic with the Department of Health Professions.

The Assessment Process:

Step 1 – Application and payment

Create an online profile in the COPR applicant portal and start the Pre-Approved Pathway application. This step requires that you identify the province where you intend to pursue registration.

Required Documentation

1) Upload one valid government-issued photo identification. Examples include:
   - Passport
   - Driver's licence

2) Upload a copy of your paramedicine education credential (i.e. diploma, transcript)

All documents must be in English or professionally translated.

It is important to provide all information requested, as only fully completed applications can be processed. Applicants can move between questions and upload documents as they become available. You can save your application at any time and come back to it later.

When the application is complete and submitted, you will be prompted for payment. Fees are payable via Visa, Mastercard, or American Express. Applications are only considered fully submitted when payment has been made.

Translation of Documents

If any of the required documents are written in a language other than English, applicants must include a translated copy into English.

Applicants are responsible for any costs involved in the translation process.

Translations can be done by a source agency (for example, a school or licensing authority) or by a certified translator and must include:

- The translator's official stamp and/or identification number, address, phone number, and the date of translation.
- A statement by the translator that it is a true representation of original document(s).
- The printed name and original signature of the translator.

COPR will not accept documents translated by either the applicant or anyone related to the applicant.

Language Proficiency Requirements

In the jurisdictions that participate in COPR's international assessment service, applicants must demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Proficiency in French may be accepted by other Canadian jurisdictions that use an alternate assessment process.

Language proficiency is verified by achieving the minimum scores set on one of the approved language tests. These scores reflect the level of language ability required to practice safely and effectively. They are aligned with the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) which serve as national standards for language proficiency. COPR language benchmarks are CLB Listening 9, Reading 8, Speaking 8, Writing 8. Establishing clear requirements upholds the principles of transparency, objectivity, impartiality, and fairness, consistent with fair registration practices and legislation in provinces where it applies.

Applicants whose first language is English may not be required to complete testing if they can demonstrate that they live and work in a region where English is the primary language and have completed a paramedic education program in English. Online and distance education programs are not accepted. *Manitoba has different requirements for language proficiency. Please contact the College of Paramedics of Manitoba for details on when language proficiency tests are required.

Approved languages tests and scores.

Language	Exam	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Overall
English	CAEL	80	70	70	70	–
	CELPIP-General	9	8	8	8	–
	IELTS AC/GT	7	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.5
	PTE Core	82	69	76	79	–
Tests up to January 2026	TOEFL iBT	24	22	24	20	90
Tests after January 2026	TOEFL iBT	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

- Applicants must upload valid test results to the portal at the time of application.
- Test results are valid for two years. If results are valid at the time of the assessment application, re-submission is not required.
- Overall test scores are not required but may be kept on file.
- Results must come from one test sitting, unless the testing organization issues an official combined score report (e.g., TOEFL MyBest, IELTS One Skill Retake).

Step 2 – Background Verification

Once the application fee payment is complete, COPR will invite you to complete a background verification process. Within approximately 5 days of applying, you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete the background verification through Triton Canada Inc.

Please monitor your email for this information and complete the online form as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delays. The link will expire after 20 days.

Triton Canada Inc. verification information:

1. **Identification**
   - Using your mobile device, have your government issued Photo ID available and proceed with the verification using the QR code and follow the instructions. **Please do not decline the online facial recognition.**
2. **Education**
   - Enter the information for the post-secondary institution(s) where you completed your paramedicine-related education. High school (secondary school) information is not required.
3. **Employment**
   - Enter the contact information for a Human Resources representative at your most recent employer where you were employed in a paramedicine role. Typically, this is an employer outside Canada. Please do not enter the name of a potential employer in Canada where you are not yet employed.
4. **Professional Designation**
   - Enter the contact information for the regulatory organization where you hold a registration/license as a paramedicine professional.

Timeline

It may take 10-15 business days for the background verification to be completed.

Once the verification is complete, Triton provides the information to COPR. Your application will be reviewed and assessed only once all verification information has been received. You may only move on to step 3 once the assessment is complete.

Step 3 - COPR Examination

Upon completing steps 1 and 2, you will be advised of the assessment decision and your next steps involving completion of an entry to practice examination.

Please refer to the COPR website for upcoming examination dates and deadlines and for more details about the application process.

Assessment and Examination Fees

The COPR Pre-Approved Pathway fee is $600 (+tax), payable at the time of submitting the application.

Examinations:

- COPR EMR Examination $550 (+tax)
- COPR PCP Examination $650 (+tax)
- COPR ACP Examination $650 (+tax)

Examination fees are payable at the time of submitting the exam application.

You may be subject to additional fees for:

- Background verification
- Language testing (if applicable)
- Document translation (if applicable)
- Provincial paramedic regulator registration

These fees are the responsibility of you, the applicant, and are in addition to the COPR assessment fees.

Next Steps Following Assessment and Examination

Following the assessment and examination, COPR will provide a summary of the findings, and a recommendation of practice designation equivalency, to the provincial paramedic regulator (as identified by the applicant in the Assessment Application). You, the applicant, are responsible to initiate the registration process with the appropriate provincial regulator. Each province may have their own registration requirements. Contact the provincial regulator for more information.