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

Paramedic Equivalency Assessment System for International Applicants

Standard Assessment 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. ***EMR will be included in the Standard Assessment later in 2026.***

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.**

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 pathways in these provinces.

COPR offers two assessment pathways:

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: 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 the Pre-Approved Pathway Handbook on the COPR website.
- You are seeking the pre-approved paramedic designation

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.

To proceed with the Pre-Approved Pathway, please refer to the COPR PEAS Pre-Approved Pathway Handbook.

About the Standard Assessment Pathway

COPR's Standard Assessment includes a detailed review of paramedicine-related education, currency in practice, and when applicable, employment and professional registration. The assessment is based on the 2011 National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) for Paramedics working in Canada.

Later in 2026, COPR will transition the assessment criteria for international applicants from the National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) to the Canadian Paramedic Competence Framework (CPCF). More information about the CPCF is available here. The COPR website will be updated with information about the transition as it becomes available.

Assessment Outcome:

Once your assessment is complete, you will be advised of the recommended outcome. If equivalency is established, COPR will recommend recognition at the **Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)** or **Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)** designation, based on the assessment findings.

The Assessment Process:

Step 1 - Initial Application Form

The online initial application form is used for providing demographic information and to create a personal profile in the COPR Applicant Portal.

Step 2 - Competency Self-Assessment

The competency self-assessment tool can be accessed within the applicant portal. The purpose of the tool is to assist you in determining your readiness for registration in Canada at the Primary Care or Advanced Care Paramedic designation. Following completion of the competency self-assessment you can decide if you want to proceed with the eligibility assessment or discontinue your application. The tool is based on the 2011 National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) for Paramedics working in Canada.

The NOCP competencies provide a common way to describe paramedic practice requirements in most Canadian provinces.

The NOCP describes eight (8) general competency areas as follows:

1. Professional Responsibilities
2. Communication
3. Health and Safety
4. Assessment and Diagnostics
5. Therapeutics
6. Integration
7. Transportation
8. Health Promotion and Safety

The eight (8) areas are further broken down into more specific competencies and sub-competencies. As individuals complete the self-assessment, they compare their current knowledge, skills, and judgement to the requirements of the specific licence level they are seeking.

Step 3 - Eligibility Assessment

This step requires you to identify the province for which you intend to register.

Required Documentation

Government Issued Photo Identification

Applicants are required to upload two forms of government issued, notarized identification. Identity documents must be **notarized,** i.e., copies of original documents must be signed, dated, and complete with the applicant's and appropriate official's signature as described below. COPR does not accept original identity documents in Canada, notarized copies must be prepared by a notary public or a lawyer. A notary public is an officer who attests or certifies writings to make them authentic. Outside of Canada, notarized copies must be prepared by a government-approved official.

Applicants must be in attendance with the notary at the time the original documents are copied and certified as true copies.

A notary must apply their official signature and seal to each reviewed document, include their address and phone number, declare in a written statement that they have seen the original documents, made the copies, can certify that they are true copies, and confirm that they, as individuals, are not in any way related to the applicant.

Applicants are responsible for all fees related to preparation of notarized documents. Copies of expired identification documents will not be accepted. At least one form of identification must contain a current photo of the applicant.

Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- Passport
- Driver's licence
- Other government-issued identification

Other acceptable forms of identification include:

- Birth certificate
- Legal name-change affidavit
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decree (Decree Absolute)

COPR will confirm that all names on the identification documents match. If the names do not match, applicants will need to send supporting documents to explain why.

Applicants are required to provide the following documentation/information:

- Proof of Language Proficiency
- Credential Authentication Report
- Course Outlines or Curriculums
- Verification of Currency in Practice
- Verification of Education
- Verification of Employment (if applicable)
- Letter of Regulatory Standing (if applicable)
- Curriculum vitae (CV)

All documents must be translated and uploaded in English.

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. Applicants can save their work at any time and come back to it later.

Translation of Documents

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

Credential Authentication

Applicants are required to have their credentials assessed by one of the following approved agencies: World Education Services (WES) or the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS). Contact information for both agencies is included below.

If WES and ICAS are unable to perform a credential review of your education, please contact COPR to determine next steps at assessment@copr.ca.

Specific reports are required based on the applicant's chosen agency:

- WES - International Credential Advantage Package (ICAP) report
- ICAS - Postsecondary Comprehensive Assessment Report (also known as a postsecondary course-by-course assessment)

The purpose of the credential evaluation is to identify and describe:

- The name of the credential
- The program length
- Equivalency
- A list of all courses completed at the post-secondary level
- Authentication

Note that processing times vary and can take up to 25-30 weeks following submission of the required documentation.

WES/ICAS require applicants to pay a fee to have their credentials assessed. This fee is the responsibility of the applicant.

World Education Services
800 - 130 Adelaide St W., Toronto, ON, M5H 3P5 Canada
Telephone: (+1) 800.361.6106
Fax: (+1) 416.972.9004
www.wes.org/ca

ICAS of Canada
100 Stone Road West, Suite 102 Guelph ON, N1G 5L3 Canada
Telephone: (+1) 519-763-7282
Toll Free in Canada: 1-800-321-6021
Fax: (+1) 519-763-6964
www.icascanada.ca

Course Outline and/or Curriculum
COPR requires a copy of the applicant's paramedic education course outline and/or curriculum. These documents can be submitted to COPR by WES and/or ICAS as part of the Credential Authentication Report or uploaded to the member portal by the applicant.

Verification of Education
A copy of the applicant's certificate, diploma and/or degree, specific to paramedicine, must be uploaded in the applicant portal.

Currency in Practice
Applicants are required to demonstrate currency in paramedic practice. Applicants who have not practiced as a paramedic within the previous twelve months and/or completed a paramedic educational program within the previous twelve months may need to meet additional requirements based on the jurisdictional regulator in order to become eligible for registration/licensure/certification.

Verification of Employment
If the applicant is, or has been, employed as a paramedic in the previous twelve months, his/her employer must complete the verification of employment form that can be found on the COPR website or by clicking here.

Letter of Regulatory Standing
If an applicant is licensed/registered/certified in their home jurisdiction, he/she must have their regulatory authority complete a letter of good standing. The Regulatory Standing form can be found on the COPR website or by clicking here.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)
Applicants are required to submit a CV that details professional and academic history. If an applicant has practiced as a paramedic, the CV shall include a list of duties performed in the practice environment.

Step 4 - COPR Examination
Upon completion of steps 1-3, applicants will be advised regarding next steps involving completion of an entry to practice examination.

Assessment Fees
- COPR Application fee: $100
- COPR Eligibility Assessment Application Fee: $600
- COPR PCP or ACP Examination: $650

Applicants will be subject to additional fees for language testing, credential authentication and where applicable, translation of documents. These fees are the responsibility of the applicant and are in addition to the COPR assessment fees.

COPR payment can be made online in the applicant portal using VISA or MasterCard.

Next Steps Following COPR Assessment and Examination

Following the assessment, COPR will provide a summary of the findings, and a recommendation of designation equivalency, to the provincial paramedic regulator. Applicants will be contacted by the regulator regarding completion of any provincial regulatory requirements. It should be noted that regulatory requirements differ in each provincial jurisdiction.