
Update on Regulatory Activities

February 2015

The Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) has recently completed a three-year project, funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Office, aimed at designing a common competency-based entry-to-practice assessment framework for those wishing to practice the professions in Canada. The project was first described in CAASPR's December 2012 newsletter. The project's impact will be greatest for those individuals who are seeking the right to practice but who originate from outside Canada, but there are also changes ahead for Canadian graduates.

Currently, each provincial regulatory body conducts its own assessment using its own standards and tools. In the future, all candidates will be assessed using a standard set of measures:

- ◆ The **academic equivalency framework**, which identifies course and clinical requirements for international candidates who apply to a regulatory body in Canada. These requirements have been developed based on current-day education offered in Canadian university programs.
- ◆ Where additional information is required, an **online portfolio tool** will allow international candidates to demonstrate their competence by submitting evidence of knowledge, skills and aptitudes for consideration by a panel of assessors.
- ◆ Candidates can upload samples of their work, which may include reports, case studies, sound clips and videos. The goal of the assessment is to provide qualitative feedback regarding education and experience to candidates, as well as to inform the regulator of experience acquired since graduation.
- ◆ An **entry-to-practice examination** for all candidates wishing to practice the professions in Canada (except in Quebec, where the legislative framework does not allow the regulatory body to administer an examination to graduates of Canadian universities, nor to internationally educated individuals whose degree is deemed to be equivalent.). The first step will be to identify a service provider who can either adapt and deliver an existing exam, or develop a new one.

The examination will be based on the national competency profiles published by the Canadian Interorganizational Steering Group in 2011. The exam is planned to launch no earlier than 2018.

- ◆ Select CAASPR provinces will pilot a **centralized assessment approach** for internationally-educated candidates. This means that those from outside Canada will be able to access a single application process regardless of the province in which they wish to work.
- ◆ CAASPR has developed a **language proficiency standard** for provinces other than Quebec, based on extensive language benchmarking work that sampled Canadian SLPs and AUDs in a variety of work environments. This means that those who need to demonstrate their ability to practice their profession in either official language will do so based on an evidence-based standard. In Quebec, the Charter of the French Language guides the work of the regulatory body.

- ◆ CAASPR members plan to pilot a **supervised integration period** for new registrants, in order to ensure the provision of competent care in all practice settings. This integration period would potentially be by-passed by Canadian graduates who have completed a degree which includes assessment mechanisms developed based on the competency profiles.

Current Status

CAASPR is currently seeking funding to continue its work on the framework, and hopes to be successful in moving forward in 2015. In the meantime, provincial regulatory bodies are hard at work ensuring their regulations/bylaws are updated to allow the adoption of the above changes. CAASPR is also working with professional associations and university programs to ensure that the impact of these changes is well-understood, and that partnerships are developed as appropriate.

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