

Type of policy: Registration	Approved by: Registration Committee
Date approved: November 5, 2020	Amendment date: November 3, 2023

Program Recognition Policy

Purpose

To protect the public, the College needs to ensure that Registered Psychotherapists have gained entry-to-practice competencies through graduate-level psychotherapy training programs. This policy should assist programs in determining whether they are eligible for recognition. This policy is also intended to aid program reviewers and members of the Registration Committee in deciding whether a program has met the requirements for recognition.

Sources of Authority

Regulated Health Professions Act Code

Objects of College

3 (1) The College has the following objects:

2. To develop, establish and maintain standards of qualification for persons to be issued certificates of registration.

Psychotherapy Act

Scope of practice

3 The practice of psychotherapy is the assessment and treatment of cognitive, emotional or behavioural disturbances by psychotherapeutic means, delivered through a therapeutic relationship based primarily on verbal or non-verbal communication. 2007, c. 10, Sched. R, s. 3.

Registration Regulation

Registered Psychotherapist class, registration requirements

6. (1) Subject to section 7 and subsection 13 (2), the following are non-exemptible registration requirements for a Registered Psychotherapist certificate of registration:

1. The applicant must,

i. have successfully completed a program in psychotherapy that has been approved by the Registration Committee or by a body that is approved by the Registration Committee for that purpose,

ii. have been awarded a master's degree in a program that has been approved by the Registration Committee or by a body that is approved by the Registration Committee for that purpose,

6. (3) No program may be approved under paragraph 1 of subsection (1) unless one of the core components of the program is designed to develop competency in the safe and effective use of self in a psychotherapeutic relationship.

Regulated Health Professions Act

Controlled acts

(2) A "controlled act" is any one of the following done with respect to an individual:

14. Treating, by means of psychotherapy technique, delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual's serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual's judgement, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning. 1991, c. 18, s. 27 (2); 2007, c. 10, Sched. L, s. 32; 2007, c. 10, Sched. R, s. 19 (1).

Controlled acts restricted

27 (1) No person shall perform a controlled act set out in subsection (2) in the course of providing health care services to an individual unless,

(a) the person is a member authorized by a health profession Act to perform the controlled act;

Exceptions

29 (1) An act by a person is not a contravention of subsection 27 (1) if it is done in the course of,

(b) fulfilling the requirements to become a member of a health profession and the act is within the scope of practice of the profession and is done under the supervision or direction of a member of the profession;

Policy

The Registration Committee will not approve a program for recognition unless the program has demonstrated in their application to CRPO the below characteristics and organizational attributes are sufficiently met. Program recognition is valid for five years, provided that all substantive program recognition criteria continue to be met. Programs are required to inform the College in advance of all proposed significant changes to the program. They may also be required to provide interim reports on any areas for development or that are of concern to the Registration of Committee or staff. A program is required to apply for renewal of recognition before its current term of recognition expires.

Characteristics

The program:

- provides students with at least 360 hours of education and training central to the practice of psychotherapy (not including independent study, direct client contact, clinical supervision, or other hours of clinical experience completed as part of a clinical or field placement or practicum);
- develops in depth all competencies in the Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Registered Psychotherapists;

- includes a clinical placement with direct client contact and clinical supervision that meets CRPO's definitions;
- develops competence in performing the controlled act of psychotherapy, including clinical supervision provided by a Registered Psychotherapist that meets CRPO's clinical supervisor definition if the clinical placement involves performing the controlled act of psychotherapy;
- is structured and organized;
- is housed in or offered by an institution that purports to train psychotherapists;
- contains evaluative components;
- confers a certificate, diploma, or degree upon successful completion;
- is a minimum of one year in duration; and
- is taught at the graduate level;
- requires completion of a bachelor's degree (or equivalent, as established by a rigorous Prior Learning Assessment process) for admission.

Organizational Attributes

- The training program has no fewer than three core faculty members.
- Faculty members are academically, professionally, and experientially qualified, and sufficient in number to achieve the education and training goals of the program.
- The program's faculty has at least one Registered Psychotherapist, or equivalent.
- The program's staffing structure and policies are clearly spelled out.
- Program faculty has regular meetings and consultations.
- The program shows intent to address objectivity, transparency, and fairness by publishing its policies and procedures related to the training and education of students.
- Program faculty engages in regular review of the program, with input from students and, especially, reference to student competency outcomes.
- Faculty, students and supervisors subscribe to a published code of ethics and professional practice standards.
- The program has established policies and procedures by which it defines and reviews formal student complaints.

Related Documents and Definitions

[Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Registered Psychotherapists](#)

[Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) Guidelines](#)

[Definitions](#)