



of occupational therapist

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

The practice of the profession of occupational therapist comprises any act aimed at assessing the functional abilities of a person, determining and implementing a treatment and intervention plan, developing, restoring or maintaining skills, compensating disabilities, reducing handicapping situations and tailoring the environment to needs in order to foster optimal autonomy.

The activities set out in the Appendix are reserved for occupational therapists in the practice of their profession. Occupational therapists practise a profession with a reserved title. They must hold a permit from the *Ordre professionnel des ergothérapeutes du Québec* (Québec order of occupational therapists) and be registered on the roll of the Order to:

- use the reserved title of “occupational therapist,” the abbreviation “erg.” or the initials “O.T.” or “O.T.R.”;
- practise the reserved activities.

PROFESSION WITH A RESERVED TITLE AND RESERVED ACTIVITIES

3,500 MEMBERS

OBTAINING THE PERMIT

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT

To obtain the permit, the candidate must hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or have a diploma or training recognized as being equivalent by the Order. The candidate must also have a knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of the profession.

Permanent residency or Canadian citizenship is not required to obtain the permit.

Practical advice

If you plan to practise the profession of occupational therapist in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the Order prior to your departure to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to undertake the procedure to obtain your permit and apply for membership in the Order. Moreover, certain immigration procedures may require that you contact the Order in question. Should this be the case, you will be notified by your immigration counsellor.

Produced in collaboration with the:

DIPLOMA OR TRAINING EQUIVALENCE

To be recognized as equivalent, a diploma awarded outside Québec must attest that its holder possesses a level of knowledge and skills equivalent to those acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation.

Consequently, equivalence is recognized if the diploma was awarded on completion of university studies in occupational therapy comprising the equivalent of the number of credits required by Québec universities to obtain a university degree conferring the right to practise the profession. Each credit corresponds to 15 hours of theory and 30 hours of practice or 45 hours of supervised clinical practicum. The breakdown of credits and practicum hours is presented in Appendix 2.

Useful information

In Québec, admission to a university program generally requires the successful completion of 13 years of elementary, secondary and collegial education.

Candidates whose diploma is not recognized as equivalent may obtain recognition of the equivalence of their training if they are able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Order that they:

- have at least five years relevant full-time experience or 8,750 hours;
- have, through this relevant work experience, acquired a level of knowledge and skills equivalent to the level acquired by a holder of a Québec diploma, as provided by regulation.

To assess training equivalence, the Order considers the number of years of schooling, the diplomas obtained, the nature and content of courses taken, the supervised clinical practicum in occupational training, and the duration of the work experience.

If the diploma was obtained five years or more before the application for equivalence and the acquired knowledge and skills no longer correspond to the current content of programs of study, the candidate will be refused.

Procedure for achieving recognition of diploma or training equivalence

1 You must complete the application form prescribed by the Order and provide all of the following documents:

- ☐ academic record, including detailed descriptions and total number of hours of the courses taken or the credits obtained, as well as an official transcript of the marks obtained
- ☐ certified true copy of the diplomas obtained
- ☐ where applicable, official document issued by the educational institution or competent authority, attesting to the candidate's participation in and successful completion of any clinical practicum in occupational therapy
- ☐ official document attesting to the right to practise the profession outside Québec (permit, registration certificate or license), where applicable
- ☐ official document attesting to relevant work experience in occupational therapy and a description thereof, where applicable
- ☐ official document attesting to any additional training received in the last five years and a description thereof, where applicable
- ☐ certified true copy of an act or certificate of birth or, failing that, a photocopy of the passport
- ☐ cheque or postal money order in the amount of \$747.66 to cover the application review fee.
This fee is non-refundable.

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all of the required documents can be processed.

All documents must be original or certified true copies. For original documents written in a language other than French or English, the candidate must supply a French or English translation that must be certified true to the original by a member of the *Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec* or by an authorized consular or diplomatic representative.

2 The Order may require a candidate to pass an examination or complete a training period, or both, before ruling on the equivalence.

3 You will receive the Order's decision respecting the recognition of the equivalence of your diploma or training in writing. If the equivalence is partially recognized, the Order will inform you of the additional training, examinations or training periods that you must successfully complete to obtain recognition of your training equivalence. If your application for equivalence is refused, it will notify you of programs of study leading to a diploma, as prescribed by regulation.

Useful information

- *European programs of study in occupational therapy, such as those that award "State" diplomas, are not always considered to be of a university level.*
- *The activities performed by a professional abroad differ in certain respects from those performed by occupational therapists in Québec.*
- *Most people holding foreign diplomas are required to complete additional training in a Québec university. They must meet the university's admission criteria and make provisions for the related tuition fees. Since a limited number of students are accepted in Québec universities, this may cause some delays.*

APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

In accordance with the Charter of the French Language, professional orders can only deliver permits to individuals who have a knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of their profession. Therefore, candidates need to meet this legal requirement and those above mentioned to obtain a permit.

Useful information

Individuals having completed at least three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary education in French are recognized as having sufficient knowledge of the French language.

Candidates whose files do not indicate that they have appropriate knowledge of French must pass the *Office québécois de la langue française* (OQLF – Québec French language bureau) French examination. **The Order** will forward the examination registration form once the application for recognition of diploma or training equivalence has been submitted.

Those candidates may, however, obtain a temporary permit for no more than one year if they meet the requirements for practising the profession. This permit will be issued by **the Order**, together with a registration form for the OQLF French exam.

The temporary permit may be renewed up to three times with the authorization of the OQLF if deemed in the public interest. For each renewal, candidates must sit examinations held in compliance with OQLF regulations. Once the temporary permit has expired, the candidate must pass the OQLF examination to obtain a regular permit. This examination is free of charge and is held in Montréal.

Issuance of the permit or specialist's certificate

If you have met all the terms and conditions for obtaining a permit, **the Order** will issue your permit to practise.

REVIEW MECHANISM

A candidate may request a hearing with the Order to review its decision if recognition of a diploma or training equivalence was refused. Any request for review must fall within the timeframes prescribed by regulation. The final decision may not be appealed.

REGISTRATION ON THE ORDER'S ROLL

To use the reserved title and practise the reserved activities, the permit holder must be registered on the roll of the Order. To register you must:

- submit a request in writing using the prescribed form and sign a declaration respecting disciplinary and criminal decisions handed down in Québec and elsewhere;
- pay the annual dues;
- take out group professional liability insurance.

Annual dues amount to \$500.36, plus \$24.80 for the contribution to the financing of the *Office des professions du Québec*. Average annual professional liability insurance fees are \$16.90 (public sector) or \$51.78 (private sector).

Reference

- *Regulation respecting the standards for diploma equivalence or training equivalence for the issue of a permit by the Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec (c. C-26, r.81.2).*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on the conditions for practising the profession in Québec

- **Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec**

2021, avenue Union, bureau 920
Montréal (Québec) H3A 2S9

In Montréal:
514 844-5778

Elsewhere in Québec:
1 800 265-5778

Fax: 514 844-0478

Internet: www.oeq.org

E-mail: ergo@oeq.org

Information on certification and examinations for evaluating knowledge of the French language

- **Office québécois de la langue française**
www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca

Information on Québec's professional system and the Professional Code

- **Office des professions du Québec**
www.opq.gouv.qc.ca
- **Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec**
www.professions-quebec.org

Information and assistance with regard to procedures pertaining to a professional order

- **Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles**
www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In the Montréal region:
Contact the Service d'information sur les professions et métiers réglementés at
514 864-9191

Elsewhere in Québec or abroad:
Contact the
[Immigration-Québec service](#)
in your settlement area.

Access to laws and regulations

- **Les Publications du Québec**
www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Information on the job market in Québec

- **Emploi-Québec**
emploi.quebec.net
- **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation**
www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca

You can also obtain the brochure *The practice of a profession governed by a professional order*

On the Internet:
www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In Québec:
at an [Immigration-Québec service](#)

Abroad:
at the [Bureau d'immigration du Québec](#)
serving your territory

Notice

The information in this document was current in April 2008. It was obtained from various sources and in no way replaces current legislation and regulations.

The fees mentioned herein are subject to change. They are in Canadian dollars and include all applicable taxes.

The information contained in the French version of the fact sheet has been validated by the Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec. The English translation has not been validated, although it is consistent with the French version.



PRACTISE OF THE PROFESSION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Activities reserved for occupational therapists

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE RESERVED FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN THE PRACTISE OF THEIR PROFESSION:

- 1° making a functional assessment of a person where required under an Act;
- 2° assessing neuromusculoskeletal function in a person having a physical function limitation or disability;
- 3° providing treatment for wounds; and
- 4° making decisions as to the use of restraint measures.

DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCE

Breakdown of credits or hours required to obtain recognition of diploma equivalence

PREREQUISITE

COLLEGIAL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

<i>Subject areas</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Subject areas</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BASIC SCIENCE	29	SCIENCES OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTERVENTION	38
Anatomy	8	Models and frames of reference	6
Gross anatomy		Models: human occupation, occupational performance, ICIDH (internal classification of deficiencies, incapacities and handicaps), etc.	
Musculoskeletal system		Frames of reference: humanist, developmental, psychoanalytic, systemic, etc.	
Neuroanatomy			
Physiology	5	Analysis of activities	3
Gross physiology		Components, therapeutical potential and adaptation	
Neurophysiology			
Pathology	8	Occupational therapy with various clienteles (children, adults, elderly) in the fields of mental and physical health	24
Gross pathology		Assessment	
Psychopathology		Treatment planning	
Kinesiology	3	Follow-up	
Human motion, motor system and biomechanical		Environment	5
Human development	2	Technology and technical aids	
Theory of development (children, adults, elderly)		Health promotion	
Stages of child development (cognitive, psychomotor and affective)		Community intervention	
Barriers to adult development			
Psychology/Sociology	3	RESEARCH METHODS	5
Basic concepts		Statistics and methodology	
		MANAGEMENT	2
		Professionalism, ethics	
		Health care system	
		Management skills	
		CLINICAL TRAINING	1,000 HOURS
		Supervised practicum with various clienteles (children, adults, elderly) in the field of mental and physical health	
		Assessment	
		Intervention	