



Canadian College of **MASSAGE** & Hydrotherapy

## Credential & Prior Learning Assessment

A Credential & Prior Learning Assessment (CPLA)\* service verifies documents, prepares objective analytical reports, reviews international educational credentials, and interprets them in terms of their Canadian equivalents. It does not make a recommendation on admission to a college or a professional association.

A CPLA applies to Massage Therapists who meet one of the following criteria:

1. Graduated with less than a 2200-hour Diploma/Certificate in Massage Therapy
2. Were internationally educated
3. Have not practiced within the past 3 years

The CPLA may consist of three parts:

Part 1: Credential Assessment

Part 2: English Language Assessment (if needed)

Part 3: Diagnostic Assessment (written & practical evaluation)

The results of the CPLA will lead to one or more of the following:

- A) Access to a professional association
- B) Further remediation of English language studies
- C) Further training to meet association standards via professional development
- D) Referral to a diploma program

### Step 1: Apply and pay for CPLA

Applicants referred to CCMH for a CPLA must complete an **Application for CPLA**, available from the Admissions Department, and submit the \$300 fee for CPLA along with the application. Payments for fees can be made by credit card, cheque, or cash at CCMH.

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\*A CPLA as outlined in this document does not apply to a student applicant of CCMH with prior learning. The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a separate process.



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## Step 2: Request transcript and course outline from training institution

Obtain the **Request for Transcript and Course Outline** form from the CCMH Admissions Department, complete the section of the form authorizing the training institution to provide a transcript and course outline to CCMH, and send the form to the institution. The institution should then complete the form, place the school's seal or stamp on the form and send it to CCMH along with the required documents.

In the case of transcripts and course outlines in a language other than English, the applicant must have these documents translated by a certified translation agency. Please refer to the [Association of Translators and Interpreters of Nova Scotia](#) for a directory of certified translators.

CCMH will accept documents from [World Education Services](#) however course outlines must be included, either from WES or the original training institution.

## Step 3: Provide results of English language assessment (if needed)

Submit results of any official English language assessment to Admissions Department at CCMH.

## Step 4: Results of Credential Assessment

Processing of the Credential Assessment may take up to four weeks from receipt of the completed application and all support documentation. Following the Credential Assessment process, applicants will be referred to one of four routes toward obtaining association membership to practice massage therapy in NS:

1. Access to the association for membership
2. Remediation of English language studies
3. Further training to meet association standards via Professional Development (PD)
4. Diagnostic Assessment

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### Step 5: Further training to meet professional association standards via PD (*not a new diploma candidate*)

Applicants whose knowledge, skills, and clinical qualifications are assessed as not equivalent to the standards required for entry to practice in NS as required by a professional association, and require *minimal to moderate* upgrading according to the credential assessment, are required to undertake further training or clinical practice. A list of requirements will be made available to those applicants who need upgrading. Upon successful completion of the upgrading courses the applicant may apply to join the association.

### Step 6: Diagnostic Assessment (*may be a new diploma candidate*)

Applicants whose knowledge, skills, and clinical qualifications are assessed as not equivalent to the standards required for entry to practice in NS as required by a provincial association, and require *moderate to extensive* upgrading according to the credential assessment, are required to undertake a Diagnostic Assessment. The Diagnostic Assessment is both a written and a practical evaluation of knowledge, hands-on, critical thinking, and clinical application skills. The Diagnostic Assessment fee is \$500. Once an applicant has completed the Diagnostic Assessment, a comprehensive report will be created with an overview of the assessment results, with notification of any additional study, further training, or clinical practice to be completed before the applicant may apply to join the association.

The Diagnostic Assessment consists of two components:

➤ Written Examination

There are two examinations that include topics such as anatomy, physiology, pathology, nutrition, pharmacology, research, and kinesiology.

➤ Practical Examination (Performance-Based Assessment)

This examination consists of a two-hour, objectively structured clinical examination consisting of practical evaluation of skills such as health history taking, palpation, patient handling, assessment, application of techniques, prescription of remedial exercise, and hydrotherapy.

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