



Policy Title: Registration: Student Applications - Entry Level Education and Hearing Aid Dispensing Program Requirements for Application Towards Active Registration as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner (HIP)	Policy #: R-03	
Reference Bylaws: Section 82(1)(a)	HPA reference:	
Authorization: Board of the CSHHPBC	Date Approved: March 19, 2010	Date Revised: June 20, 2014

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- To outline the minimum education requirement needed in order to apply to the CSHHP towards registration as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner (HIP).
- To outline the education programs in hearing aid dispensing approved by the Board for student applicants.
- To outline the requirements for Audiologists applying for dual registration as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner.

SCOPE

- This policy applies to registration requirements for applicants to the College who are *newly* entering the profession or are not currently registered in another regulated jurisdiction within Canada.

POLICY

Hearing Instrument Practitioners

1. Completion of second year post-secondary education or the equivalent level:

For an application to be accepted, an applicant must provide proof of completion of a minimum of 2 years post-secondary education in any subject or combination of subjects.

- a) Equivalency of second year post-secondary education is calculated as:
 - 2 years full time college/university = 60 course credits or 900 hours of classroom instruction
 - 1 year of full time study = 30 credits = 450 hours of classroom instruction
 - 1 semester = 15 credits = 225 hours of classroom instruction
 - 1 credit = 15 hours of classroom instruction (courses of less than 1 credit or 15 hours of instruction will not be accepted.)



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- b) Equivalencies for Optical Training Programs:
- i. BC College of Optics, is a training school that offers a 6 month fulltime (12 month part time) program. Completion of this program is accepted as the equivalent of one year post secondary education.
 - ii. The Douglas College Optical Program is a two year post secondary program and graduates of this program meet the requirement of 2 years post secondary education for application to the CSHHPBC.

(The regulatory body for opticians, the College of Opticians of B.C., does not offer credit courses.)

2. Accepted Education Programs in Hearing Aid Dispensing

- a) Hearing Aid Practitioner Dispensing Program (2 or 3 year Canada college diploma programs). Completion of one of the following programs satisfies both the minimum 2 year post secondary education requirement and the hearing aid dispensing program requirement.
- i. Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB, Hearing Aid Practitioner Diploma Program. This is a distance education program.
 - ii. George Brown College, ON. Hearing Instrument Specialist Program
 - iii. Conestoga College, ON. Hearing Instrument Specialist Program.
 - iv. Rosemont College, Que. Audioprothesiste Program.
- b) Other diploma programs deemed equivalent may be accepted. The GMU hearing aid dispensing program is considered the benchmark. The registration committee may elect to have the GMU program coordinators review the syllabus of other programs outside Canada to assess equivalency, or the committee may require a credential review by an international credential evaluation service. The applicant will bear the cost of a credential review.

Note: The IIHIS (International Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies) distance course is no longer deemed an acceptable dispensing program. A grand-parenting provision will allow current applicants and future applicants enrolled in the IIHIS course when proof of successful completion is provided to the College no later than June 30, 2015. This grand-parenting provision will expire July 1, 2015.

Audiologist applying for dual registration as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner

NOTE: This is a controlled document for CSHHPBC use only. The electronic version of this document on the CSHHPBC website is the official version - any print versions should be checked against the electronic copy.



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3. Education Requirement

All Canadian accredited audiology programs are accepted programs of study to meet education requirements to practice as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner. These include masters of audiology programs at: University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario, University of Ottawa, University of Montreal, Dalhousie University.

For applicants to the College who do not have a graduate degree in audiology from one of the Canadian Programs, but have credentials that may be equivalent, credentials must be reviewed by an international credential evaluation service. The applicant will bear the cost of a credential review.

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

College of Speech & Hearing Health Professionals of BC, Bylaws (2009), www.cshhpb.org

Government of British Columbia, Health Professions Act (2008), Victoria, BC: Queens Printer, www.bclaws.ca

Registration Policy R-01: Programs of Study for Registration as a Speech-Language Pathologist, Audiologist, and Hearing Instrument Practitioner

Registration Policy R-02: Practicum Requirements for Application towards Registering as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner

Registration Policy R-04: Examinations Required for Registration as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner (HIP)

Form 5: Consent to a Criminal Record Check

Form 8: Application Form - Student - Hearing Instrument Practitioner