



## **FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS – DRAFT DOCTOR CLASS COMPETENCIES AND ASSESSMENT PATHS**

### **The proposed pathways include a requirement of a “minimum of two years of undergraduate education or equivalent.” What education might be considered equivalent?**

While Canadian university education that leads to a bachelor’s degree would meet this requirement, the Doctor Title Working Group considered additional ways in which an applicant might be able to demonstrate they have met this requirement. For example, some Community College diplomas could be considered. This led to wording that included equivalents, and education from outside of Canada.

While the College is not in a position to say specifically which education programs will be considered equivalent, we can say that the intent is to be flexible and inclusive. It is more important that the intent of the requirement, which is to ensure a high level of education for Doctor Title holders, is met rather than the specific program description.

### **What is the pathway for current Acupuncturists to obtain the Doctor Title?**

While the College is not proposing to offer a “Doctor of Acupuncture” title or equivalent, Acupuncturists are still able to pursue the Doctor Title. Current Acupuncturists can refer to the College’s [Application for Title Variation Guideline](#) for steps to obtaining the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner title. From there, the member can work to meet the Doctor Class Registration Requirements in Path One. Alternatively, Acupuncturists would be able to complete the education program referred to in Path Two, and seek direct entry into the Doctor Class once that pathway is available.

### **Will there be a renewal fee increase associated with registration in the Doctor Class?**

The College is not at this time contemplating a higher renewal fee for the Doctor Class. However, members can expect fees associated with the process to initially apply and transfer to the Doctor Class.

### **What benefit will patients receive from the College offering the Doctor Title?**

Members of the Doctor Class will be expected to understand and provide treatment for the most complex cases within the scope of traditional Chinese medicine. This has been reflected in the draft Doctor Class competencies which include additional competencies and expanded expectations on some entry-level competencies. Patients suffering from complex and severe conditions will be assured that there are members with knowledge and expertise to provide them with treatment, and a means to find them. The College expects this will lead to an improvement in the overall care received by patients of the TCM profession and a greater contribution to the health care sector in Ontario.

### **Is the College bound by the 2006 HPRAC report in developing Doctor Class regulations?**

The 2006 Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Committee (HPRAC) report has been a useful guide and starting point for the work of the Doctor Title Working Group; however, this report is not binding in the development of regulations. In 2021 the Ontario government proposed the dissolution of HPRAC, and references to HPRAC have been removed from the Regulated Health Professions Act.



### **What considerations went into the proposed educational requirements?**

It is an expectation of the public that those who hold the title of “doctor” in Ontario are well educated and knowledgeable within their field. The Doctor Title Working Group has agreed with this sentiment, and has looked to set a level of education that is reflective of it. However, currently in Ontario there are no education institutions that offer TCM education that results in a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Rather than refer to a specific program name or degree earned, the Doctor Title Working Group focused on the content of the education provided. As stated in the introduction of the competencies document, it is the College’s hope and expectation that a TCM degree program authorized by the Ontario government be offered in Ontario in the near future. However, until then, the College is confident that the education requirements proposed are sufficient in meeting the expectations on the title “doctor”.

The College will always be open and flexible to accepting applicants, education, and experience from outside of Ontario and Canada. However, as an Ontario regulator, the College must develop registration requirements that are achievable within Ontario.

### **What considerations have been given to experienced TCM Practitioners/Practitioners with a high level of education in the proposed pathways?**

The title of “doctor” in Ontario is highly valued, and a high level of expectations is placed on those who hold it. Similarly, regulators responsible for issuing the title must ensure that those expectations are being met through defensible registration requirements. To meet this responsibility, it is being proposed that all applicants to the Doctor Class must demonstrate that they have met the education requirements of the Doctor Class AND they must successfully complete an assessment of their competencies through the Doctor Class Registration Examination.

However, it is also acknowledged that a high level of experience should be recognized. TCM Practitioners with more than 10 years of experience comprising a minimum of 8000 patient visits will be required to only complete the case study portion of the examination. Furthermore, recognizing that current TCM Practitioners have already met entry-level competencies, the College will propose that only the new or updated competencies related to the Doctor Class will be tested (red text in the competency document).

### **Additional information**

If you have any additional questions not covered here, please contact the College at [consultation@ctcmpao.on.ca](mailto:consultation@ctcmpao.on.ca). Please also be sure to complete the survey on the College’s [consultation page](#) to ensure your thoughts and feedback reach the Doctor Title Working Group.