

PLA frequently asked questions

1. Can I review my Online Self-Assessment Test (OSAT) results?

As soon as your OSAT has been submitted and graded, you can review a version of your completed assessment. It will include your answer selections and the correct answers for those questions you answered incorrectly. **This will be available to you for 60 minutes after your OSAT has been submitted. This is the only time that you are able to review your answers.** After that, your total score will be visible in the College's [Learning Centre](#) and your record on the [Applicant Portal](#), but not the full OSAT results.

2. How many times can I take the OSAT?

Each PLA Applicant may take the OSAT one time.

3. What does the College do with my OSAT results?

Your OSAT results are for your personal use only. There is no passing grade. The OSAT's purpose is to assist you when determining if you want to proceed to the next step in the PLA process. The College does not use your OSAT results in determining the outcome of your Clinical Competence Assessment (CCA).

4. What areas/content are tested in the Clinical Competence Assessment?

The CCA has content derived from all areas listed in two documents:

- **Guidelines for Foundational Knowledge in Massage Therapy Educational Programs (2018) (CMTBC-GFK-2018-11-30.pdf)**
- **Inter-Jurisdictional Practice Competencies and Performance Indicators for Massage Therapists at Entry-to-Practice (CMTBC-FOMTRAC-PCs-PIs-2016-09.pdf)**

Learn more about these documents on the **Recommended Resources & Entry-Level Requirements page**.

5. What is the Clinical Competence Assessment (CCA) – Theory Practice test

The practice test serves as a guide to the type of questions and exam format you will see in the Clinical Knowledge and Theory Exam. The practice test provides applicants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the format of the theory exam. This practice test is optional and is to be used to prepare for the CCA theory exam. It is important to note that performance on the practice test is not a predictor of whether applicants will pass or fail the Clinical Knowledge and Theory Exam.

6. What is the difference between the Clinical Competence Assessment and the College's registration examination?

The CCA is a two-step assessment process whereas the College's registration examination consists of three exam components. The CCA's two steps include:

- **CCA Theory assessment:** The theory component of the CCA includes representative content from two exam components of the College's three-component entry-to-practice examination: Clinical Knowledge and Theory, and the Law, Ethics & Professionalism.

You must be successful at the theory component to be eligible to take the practical component of the CCA.

- **CCA Practical component:** The practical component of the CCA follows a format similar to the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA), which is the practical component of the College's three-component entry-to-practice examination.

In the practical component you will conduct three clinical interviews, perform assessment techniques for two conditions, and provide treatment and home care for one condition. This is different from the PBA, which is described on the **Exam Components page**.

Written feedback is provided to you after each CCA component; this is not the case with the College's entry-to-practice registration examination. The CCA is an assessment that provides you with information to help you make decisions about your career.

7. Why does the CCA cost \$1,600 in total?

The CCA fee is split into two:

- Theory exam: \$550
- Practical exam: \$1,050

Applicants are required to pay for the practical exam component only if they successfully complete the theory exam component.

The cost of the CCA is based on ensuring the assessment is a full cost-recovery project. The College derives all of its income from registration fees paid by registrants. These fees pay the College's operational expenses for regulating the profession and fulfilling its statutory mandate. The PLA process provides information to applicants who do not meet the traditional requirements for access to the registration examination. The costs of this assessment are borne by the applicants to provide information that is unique to them.

The assessment fee pays for scheduling, administering, and grading both theory and practical components of the CCA, for the software licenses that maintain the Applicant Portal and the learning management system that houses the Online Self-Assessment Test (OSAT), and for subject matter expertise and time taken to provide detailed feedback to applicants regarding their performance.

Unfortunately, many PLA applicants are unsuccessful in their goal to become RMTs. For this reason, the PLA is financed solely by fee-for-service to recover the cost of this service.

8. When will I get my CCA results?

Applicants receive their theory results approximately one week after completion. Results for the final result of their CCA will be available approximately two weeks after the practical component.

9. What is the passing grade of the CCA theory component?

The CCA has two components: theory and practical. A determination of substantial equivalency is based upon all the material collected during the CCA process and represents the outcome of both components.

Although neither a percentage mark nor a pass/fail indication is provided for either of the two components, it is unlikely an applicant will be deemed to be substantially equivalent if they score less than 60% on the theory component.

To be clear: success at the PLA takes the form of being granted an assessment of substantial equivalency to the knowledge and skills of a graduate of a recognized education program in massage therapy. It is not a “pass” – it is a decision that you have (or have not) met the requirement of substantial equivalency.

Remember: if you receive an assessment of substantially equivalent, you now qualify for application to the College’s registration examination. Your knowledge gaps have been identified by the CCA. It is wise to study both in the identified gap-areas, as well as in the areas where you succeeded.

10. How long is my PLA result valid? Within what time period must I apply for the College’s registration examination? Can I take a break after completing the PLA before I sign up for the College’s registration examination?

PLA results do not expire. If you have been deemed substantially equivalent, it will be up to you to decide when to apply to take the registration examination.

11. How long are the theory and practical components of the CCA?

The theory and practical components are each three hours long.

12. If I want to apply for the late summer/fall registration examination, what is the latest date I can complete the CCA?

The final component of your CCA must be completed by mid-June if the registration examination is scheduled for August or September. This ensures there is adequate time for you to receive your results and meet the application deadline for the late summer/fall registration examination.

13. If I want to apply for the spring registration examination what is the latest date I can complete the CCA?

The final component of your CCA must be completed by mid-November. This will ensure there is enough time to receive your results and meet the application deadline for the spring registration examination.

14. Why do I have to complete the CCA so far in advance of the registration examination?

Dates of the registration examination fluctuate, as they are dependent on availability of venues required to administer the examination. The registration examination has a deadline for applications that generally falls three months prior to the start of the exam components. Your CCA must be completed at least four weeks in advance of that deadline, to ensure that you receive results from the CCA in time to apply for the registration examination prior to the deadline for applications.