



The Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Association Internationally Educated Dental Therapist Assessment and Gap Training Program

In Saskatchewan, dental therapists are governed by [The Dental Disciplines Act \(DDA\) 1997](#), and the Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Association (SDTA) [Regulatory Bylaws](#) and [Administrative Bylaws](#).

To practice dental therapy in the province of Saskatchewan, dental therapists must be registered with the SDTA and hold a full practicing licence granted by the SDTA.

Once registered, Saskatchewan dental therapists must practice their profession in accordance with the [SDTA Scope of Practice/Professional Standards](#). These processes protect the public's right to safe, effective and ethical service from Saskatchewan dental therapists.

All persons applying for registration with the SDTA must have successfully completed an educational program in dental therapy that is recognized by the SDTA council. Internationally Educated Dental Therapists (IEDTs) that have obtained their dental therapy education from a school not recognized by the SDTA, must successfully complete the SDTA Internationally Educated Dental Therapist Assessment Program to be registered and be issued a full practicing membership with the SDTA.

The program consists of eight steps:

1. Eligibility Assessment Application
 2. Academic Review
 3. Gap Training Clinical Competency Assessment Training
 4. Clinical Competency Assessment
 5. Post-Assessment Remediation and Training
 6. SDTA Registration and Restricted Licensure
 7. SDTA Mentorship Program
 8. Full Practicing Membership
- Applicants must be trained as **dental therapists** to apply for the program - other oral health professions are not eligible.
 - IEDTs will be able to acquire missing knowledge or skills through gap training courses, provided by Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina Campus.
 - The applicant must successfully complete each step of the program before proceeding to the next step.
 - Applicants will be granted a full practicing membership upon successful completion of all steps of the program.

Step 1- Eligibility Assessment Application

The applicant will be required to complete the Eligibility Assessment Application.

Applicants will be required to provide the following documents:

- Payment: \$500
- Verification and Credential Authentication Report from World Education Services (WES)
 - The WES-ICAP course-by-course credential assessment is required.
 - The WES-ECA basic report for immigration purposes is not acceptable.
 - The assessment report must be sent directly to SDTA from WES.
- Verification of Education (copy of certification of graduation)
- Training course outlines, syllabus, or curriculums from your training program (including clinical hours and practicum hours)
- Letter of good standing from applicant's international regulatory authority (to be emailed directly to the SDTA from regulatory body)
- Three letters of professional references are required and are to be emailed directly to the SDTA from the reference.
- Resume or curriculum vitae to include work experience as a dental therapist and employment contact information
- Copy of most recent English language test result
- Proof of name change if applicable

All documents must be translated to English.

Applicants must provide all documentation as only complete submissions will be processed.

Step 2 – Academic Review

Once the application and all documentation has been received, applications will be reviewed by the SDTA Academic Review Committee. The Committee will determine if the applicant:

- meets the requirements to proceed to step 3; or
- does not meet the requirements to enable them to proceed. The applicant's education is not substantially equivalent to meet the scope of practice of dental therapists in Saskatchewan.

The Committee will identify any gaps in training that exist for an applicant and determine whether those gaps must be filled prior to the clinical competency assessment.

The Academic Review Committee will create an individualized Learning Plan, that will outline all requirements of the applicant. The Learning Plan will include mandatory courses and GAP training. The Learning Plan will be approved by council and presented to the applicant. Once the learning plan is signed by applicant, they will proceed to Step3.

Step 3 – Gap Training

Gap Training courses have a theory portion and a clinical portion. Courses may be started up to 6 months before an applicant has arrived in Saskatchewan. Gap Training courses will be offered through Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Admission to these courses is only through approval of the SDTA.

Gap Training may include the following courses:

- dental dam
- fissure sealants
- composite restorations
- pulpal therapy
- stainless steel crown
- radiography

The theory portion must be successfully completed prior to Step 4 clinical competency assessment.

Step 4-Clinical Competency Assessment

The applicant will be required to enroll in the Clinical Competency Assessment Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Regina, SK.

The Clinical Competency Assessment Practical Examination was developed for dental therapists trained outside of Canada to demonstrate their preventive, restorative skills and knowledge in a simulated environment that mirrors clinical situations. It will also test problem solving, judgement, communication and infection prevention and control and safety. Applicants are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation for the Clinical Competency Assessment. The examination will run over three consecutive days.

The Clinical Competency Assessment uses the International Standards Organizational System (ISO) which is also known as the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) System for the numbering system for the teeth. You must be knowledgeable with this system before the examination begins.

All expenses associated with the assessment, tuition, travel, accommodation, meals, parking, etc. will be the applicant's responsibility.

Upon approval of the IEDT Application, the applicant will be directed to the appropriate person at Saskatchewan Polytechnic for further instructions about enrollment in the assessment.

The Clinical Competency Assessment evaluators will monitor/assess clinical competency and forward results to the SDTA Credentials Committee with recommendations; if any.

The SDTA Credentials Committee will present their recommendations to the SDTA Council. The SDTA Council will determine if the applicant will be eligible to apply for registration and membership with the SDTA.

After the Clinical Competency Assessment and the SDTA Credential Committee's review, the applicant may be assigned remedial course work (Step 5).

Step 5 – Post-Assessment Remediation and Training

Post assessment remediation will be made available at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Remediation is not available for learning outcomes 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 (cavity preparations).

Step 6 - SDTA Registration and Restricted Licensure

Successful completion of the GAP training assessment portion of the program will enable internationally educated dental therapists to apply for registration and restricted licensure with the SDTA. Applicants must meet all requirements for registration and membership according to the Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Associations Regulatory Bylaws.

A restricted license is issued according to the SDTA Regulatory Bylaws Section 4-3 Restricted License - may be granted to members a) who have not completed to the satisfaction of Council all the requirements for a full license.

A restricted license to practice will specify the purpose, conditions, and the period of time that the restricted license will be in effect for.

Step 7 – Mentorship Program

A restricted, temporary license will be required to enroll in the SDTA Mentorship Program which will last approximately 4-6 months.

The Mentorship Program applicants must secure their own employer and mentor to be accepted into the program. The place of employment must be in Saskatchewan.

As part of the mentorship program all applicants will be required to take the following mandatory courses:

[Dispensary Assistant IPC \(DENT-1622\)](#) The office evaluation component of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Dispensary Assistant IPC Course (DENT-1622) is to be completed while enrolled in the Mentorship Program.

- Canadian Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certificate-Level C (or equivalent)
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic Ethics and Jurisprudence module
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic Indigenous Awareness course

Clinical Competencies identified in the applicant's Learning Plan will be assessed as part of the Mentorship Program.

If the applicant fails to successfully complete the terms of the Mentorship Program, GAP Training, Learning Plan, Mandatory Courses, conditions of their Temporary License, and/or ceases to meet any other conditions placed upon them, the Registrar will revoke the applicant's registration and restricted license.

Step 8- Full Practicing Membership

A Full Practicing Membership (license) will be granted upon successfully fulfilling all requirements of the Internationally Educated Dental Therapist Assessment. Requirements include successful completion of the Learning Plan, GAP Training, Mandatory Course, Mentorship Program, and/or any other conditions placed upon them.