

Building a New Life in Ontario

A guide for newcomers

LEARNING ABOUT: WORKING IN YOUR PROFESSION

As a newcomer to Ontario, you may have many questions. This guide will help you learn more about:

- How professions are regulated in Ontario
- What is required to enter many professions
- How your academic credentials will be assessed
- How career maps and bridging training programs can help you
- How Ontario is helping newcomers succeed.

Getting started

Most professions in Ontario are self-regulated. That means the professions themselves set their own standards and register members of the profession. Some professions are regulated by law. Doctors and lawyers are two examples of these 'regulated professions'. Other professions, known as 'unregulated' or 'voluntary' professions are not regulated by law, but may have voluntary professional bodies.

Regulated professions

In Ontario, the most common method of regulating a profession is through legislation. This legislation establishes a professional body to govern the profession. These professional bodies are often called 'colleges'. For example, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario governs the medical profession. These regulatory bodies protect the public by:

- Setting standards of practice
- Setting the requirements for entering the profession
- Assessing the qualifications of those who want to enter the profession
- Registering qualified members of the profession
- Disciplining members, including the right to remove the right to practice the profession.

Regulated professions usually require:

- Several years of university or college study
- Practical experience under the supervision of a licensed worker in the profession
- The successful completion of a licensing examination.

Helping newcomers succeed

The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration is implementing the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act 2006*, which is designed to help newcomers enter Ontario's regulated professions. Through the Act, Global Experience Ontario (GEO), a new Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals, has been created. GEO provides information, referrals and other important support to newcomers entering the regulated professions. For more information about GEO, visit the 'Working' section of Ontario Immigration at: www.ontarioimmigration.ca.

Entering the regulated professions

Each regulatory body sets its own requirements to enter the profession. These requirements often include:

- Evidence of the person's identity
- Evidence of residence in Canada
- Minimum educational qualifications
- Language ability
- Professional or supervised experience
- Good character
- Successful completion of an examination
- Payment of a registration fee

Using professional titles

In some professions, it is illegal to practice the profession, or use the title of the profession, without being registered with a regulatory body. In other professions, there are no restrictions on who can practice the profession, but the professional title may not be used unless the individual is registered with the regulatory body. Some professions, such as engineering and architecture, do allow individuals to work without a license, as long as a licensed practitioner is responsible for the work.

Entering unregulated professions

Some professions are not regulated by law, but may have voluntary professional bodies. Many of these professional bodies offer certification courses, and registration. Registration is often valued within the profession, and is important to finding employment in the field.

Having your academic credentials assessed

Every profession has its own educational requirements. A number of different organizations can assess your schooling and ensure that it meets Ontario's standards. Many international academic qualifications are assessed in Ontario by World Education Services Canada (WES). You can visit WES at: www.wes.org/ca/. However, each regulatory body decides how to assess the qualifications of applicants. It is important to check first with the regulatory body, to see which assessment services are recognized.

Using career maps

Career maps have been developed by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, in partnership with regulatory bodies, to provide step-by-step information on entering a wide variety of occupations. Career maps can help you understand:

- Qualifications required to enter the profession
- Examinations which may be required
- The costs of examination and registration
- The work opportunities that exist in the profession

You will find career maps on the 'Work in Your Profession' page of the Ontario Immigration website at: www.OntarioImmigration.ca.

Bridge training: how it can help

Many newcomers to Ontario are highly skilled, and have postsecondary training or education. Bridge training programs have been developed by the government to help these individuals move more quickly into more than 100 trades and professions. Bridge training programs can help you to:

- Assess your skills
- Upgrade your skills and training
- Get work experience in Ontario
- Move into your profession without re-learning what you have already learned

These programs have helped to identify and eliminate many barriers for newcomers, and get into trades and professions more quickly. Usually, you will be charged a fee for these programs.

For more information about bridge training programs, visiting the 'Work in Your Profession' section of the Ontario Immigration website at: www.OntarioImmigration.ca.

Learning more

Are you interested in exploring a specific profession? Below is a list of the regulatory bodies for many professions in Ontario. You can also learn more about living, working and learning in Ontario by visiting the Ontario Immigration website at: www.OntarioImmigration.ca.

Architect

Ontario Association of Architects
Tel: 416/565-2724
e-mail: oaamail@oaa.on.ca
<http://www.oaa.on.ca>

Audiologist and Speech Pathologist

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
Tel: 416/975-5347 Toll Free (in Ontario) 1-800-993-9459
Email: caslpo@caslpo.com
<http://www.caslpo.com>

Certified General Accountant

Certified General Accountants Association of Ontario
Tel: 416/322-6520
Email: info@cga-ontario.org
<http://www.cga-ontario.org>

Certified Management Accountant

The Society of Management Accountants of Ontario
Tel: 416/977-7741
Email: info@CMA-Ontario.org
<http://www.cma-ontario.org>

Chartered Accountant

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario

Tel: 416/962-1841 Toll Free (in Canada and the U.S.A.) 1-800-387-0735

Email: custserv@icao.on.ca

<http://www.icao.on.ca>

Chiropodist

College of Chiropodists of Ontario

Tel: 416/542-1333 Toll Free (In Ontario) 1-877-232-7653

Email: info@cocoo.on.ca

<http://www.cocoo.on.ca>

Chiropractor

College of Chiropractors of Ontario

Tel: 416/922-6355

Email: cco.info@cco.on.ca

<http://www.cco.on.ca>

Dental Hygienist

College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario

Tel: 416/961-6234 Toll free (in Ontario) 1-800-268-2346

Email: deputyregistrar@cdho.org

<http://www.cdho.org>

Dental Technologist

College of Dental Technologists of Ontario

Tel: 416/438-5003 Toll Free: 1-877-391-2386

Email: info@cdto.ca

<http://www.cdto.ca>

Dentist

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Tel: 416/961-6555 Toll Free: 1-800-565-4591

Email: info@rcdso.org

<http://www.rcdso.org>

Denturist

College of Denturists of Ontario

Tel: 416/925-6331 Toll Free: 1-888-236-4326

Email: info@denturists-cdo.com

<http://www.denturists-cdo.com>

Dietitian

College of Dietitians of Ontario
Tel: 416/598-1725 Toll free 1-800-668-4990
Email: information@cdo.on.ca
<http://www.cdo.on.ca>

Engineer

Professional Engineers Ontario
Tel: 416/224-1100 Toll Free (Ontario) 1-800-339-3716
Email: academics@peo.on.ca
<http://www.peo.on.ca>

Engineering Technician or Technologist

Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians & Technologists (OACETT)
Tel: 416/621-9621
Email: info@oacett.org
<http://www.oacett.org>

Forester

Ontario Professional Foresters Association
Phone: (705) 436-2226
Email: opfa@opfa.com
Website: <http://www.opfa.on.ca>

Funeral Director

Board of Funeral Services
Tel: 416/979-5450
Toll Free in Ontario: 1-800-387-4458
Email: info@funeralboard.com
<http://www.funeralboard.com>

Geoscientist

Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario
Tel: 416-203-2746
Email: info@apgo.net
<http://www.apgo.net>

Insurance Broker

Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario
Tel: 416/365-1900 Toll Free: 1-800-265-3097
Email: vivian@ribo.com
<http://www.ribo.com>

Land Surveyor

Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
Tel: 416/491-9020 Toll free 1-800-268-0718
Email: admin@aols.org
<http://www.aols.org>

Lawyer

Law Society of Upper Canada
Tel: 416/947-3300 Toll Free: 1-800-668-7380
Email: lawsociety@lsuc.on.ca
<http://www.lsuc.on.ca>

Massage Therapist

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario
Tel: 416/489-2626 Toll Free: 1-800-465-1933
Email: cmto@cmto.com
<http://www.cmto.com>

Medical Laboratory Technologist

College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario
Tel: 416/861-9605 Toll free 1-800-323-9672
Email: mail@cmlto.com
<http://www.cmlto.com>

Medical Radiation Technologist

College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario
Tel: 416/975-4353 Toll free (in Ontario) 1-800-563-5847
Email: info@cmrto.org
<http://www.cmrto.org>

Midwife

College of Midwives of Ontario
Tel: (416) 327-0874
Email: admin@cmo.on.ca
<http://www.cmo.on.ca>

Naturopath

Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy-Naturopathy
Tel: (416) 866-8383
E-mail: office@bddth.on.ca
www.boardofnaturopathicmedicine.on.ca

Nurse

College of Nurses of Ontario
Tel: 416/928-0900 Toll Free 1-800-387-5526
Email: cno@cnomail.org
<http://www.cno.org>

Occupational Therapist

College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario
Tel: 416/214-1177 Toll Free in North America: 1-800-890-6570
Email: info@coto.org
<http://www.coto.org>

Optician

College of Opticians of Ontario
Tel: 416/368-3616 Toll Free in Ontario: 1-800-990-9793
Email: info@coptont.org
<http://www.coptont.org>

Optometrist

College of Optometrists of Ontario
Tel: 416/962-4071 Toll Free (in Ontario) 1-888-825-2554
Email: registration@collegeoptom.on.ca
<http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca>

Physiotherapist

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
Tel: 416/591-3828 Toll Free in Canada/USA 1-800-583-5885
Email: info@collegept.org
<http://www.collegept.org>

Pharmacist

Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacists
Tel: 416-962-4861
Email: dcroteau@ocpharma.com
<http://www.ocpinfo.com>

Physician or Surgeon

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
Tel: (416) 967-2603 Toll free 1-800-268-7096
Email: feedback@cpsy.on.ca
<http://www.cpsy.on.ca>

Psychologist

College of Psychologists of Ontario
Tel: (416) 961-8817 Toll free 1-800-489-8388
Email: cpo@cpo.on.ca
<http://www.cpo.on.ca>

Real Estate Broker

Real Estate Council of Ontario
Tel: (416) 207-4800 Toll free 1-800-245-6910
Email: registration@reco.on.ca
<http://www.reco.on.ca>

Respiratory Therapist

College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario
Tel: 416/591-7800 Toll Free: 1-800-261-0528
Email: crto@crto.on.ca
<http://www.crto.on.ca>

Social Worker

Ontario College of Social Workers & Social Service Workers
Tel: (416) 972-9882 Toll Free: 1-877-828-9380
Email: info@ocswssw.org
<http://www.ocswssw.org>

Teacher

Ontario College of Teachers

Tel: 416/961-8800

Toll Free: 1 888 534-2222

Email: info@oct.ca

<http://www.oct.ca>

Veterinarian

College of Veterinarians of Ontario

Tel: 519/824-5600 Toll free 1-800-424-2856

Email: inquiries@cvo.org

<http://www.cvo.org>