Guidebook for Academic Institutions

CAEL CE is the leading academic English proficiency test for study in Canada

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Table of Contents

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About CAEL CE

The Canadian Academic English Language Test, Computer Edition (CAEL CE), is designed to measure the English language proficiency of students planning to study in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

CAEL CE is one of the best tools for identifying students with the right English skills for academic success. It provides an authentic representation of language use in a Canadian academic context. Test takers read articles, listen to lectures, answer questions, and write a short essay, as they would be expected to do in a first-year Canadian university or college classroom.

One of the unique features of CAEL CE is that it is an integrated, topic-based test. During the test, test takers use more than one skill to answer questions on unified topics. For example, test takers speak to respond to questions based on what they have read or listened to, and write responses based on a reading passage and mini-lecture.

The advantage of this approach is that it assesses a test taker's ability to synthesize information from a variety of sources, just as a student would in a post-secondary classroom. When writing in college or university, students are often required to bring together information from a variety of sources such as lectures, online material, books, and journals. By preparing for the test and by practicing these skills, CAEL CE test takers will be prepared for the types of activities they will encounter in college and university classrooms.

The Trusted Canadian Test

CAEL CE is accepted by over 180 institutions across Canada for academic admission, as well as by several professional organizations for certification.

100%
CAEL CE is accepted by 100% of the English-speaking Universities Canada institutions that accept international students.

82%
CAEL CE is accepted by 82% of the English-speaking CiCan institutions that accept international students.

Currently more than 180 Canadian universities and colleges accept CAEL CE as evidence of English language proficiency for admission to their academic programs. For a complete list of these accepting institutions, visit our website at cael.ca/who-accepts-cael-ce.

CAEL CE Testimonials

We chose CAEL because it contains, and expects students to produce the actual academic language of the university community. This validity was crucial in our decision.

- Robert Berman, University of Alberta

We have consistently found the test to be a much more accurate instrument for predicting academic success than the other tests available.

- Louis Buchanan, Ryerson University

What I liked most about the CAEL CE was that you can do the test on the computer, it uses Canadian English, and the results are released quickly!

- Alinsson, CAEL CE Test Taker

I appreciated the availability of test dates for CAEL, and found it convenient and inexpensive compared to other English proficiency tests.

- Aashima, CAEL CE Test Taker

How We Work with Academic Institutions

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Paragon Testing Enterprises is proud to support institutions that are invested in accepting CAEL CE, the trusted Canadian English language test. For institutions that are interested in becoming CAEL score users, we are pleased to provide the following support:

- Presentations and information sessions for your admissions department about using CAEL CE scores
- CAEL CE experts who are able to provide information about CAEL CE to your international student recruiters
- A comprehensive score and identity verification system that allows for instant online verification of a test taker's CAEL CE score
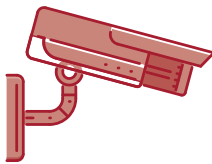
To learn more about becoming a CAEL CE score user, or to speak to a Paragon representative about CAEL CE, contact **clientrelations@paragontesting.ca**, or visit **cael.ca** to learn more.

Why Choose CAEL CE

CAEL CE is the only test that provides an authentic representation of language use in a Canadian academic context. It evaluates how well students combine their English speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills to perform academic tasks that they would encounter at a Canadian university or college.

Test Features

Robust Test Security

Protected by leading-edge test security, including a scores and identity verificaiton system

Computer-delivered Test

Done in just one sitting and includes features such as a personal timer & word counter

Online Identification System

Test taker identity verification system that allows for scores and identities to be directly validated

Convenient Study Materials

Free sample tests, pretest sittings, webinars, prep programs & online courses
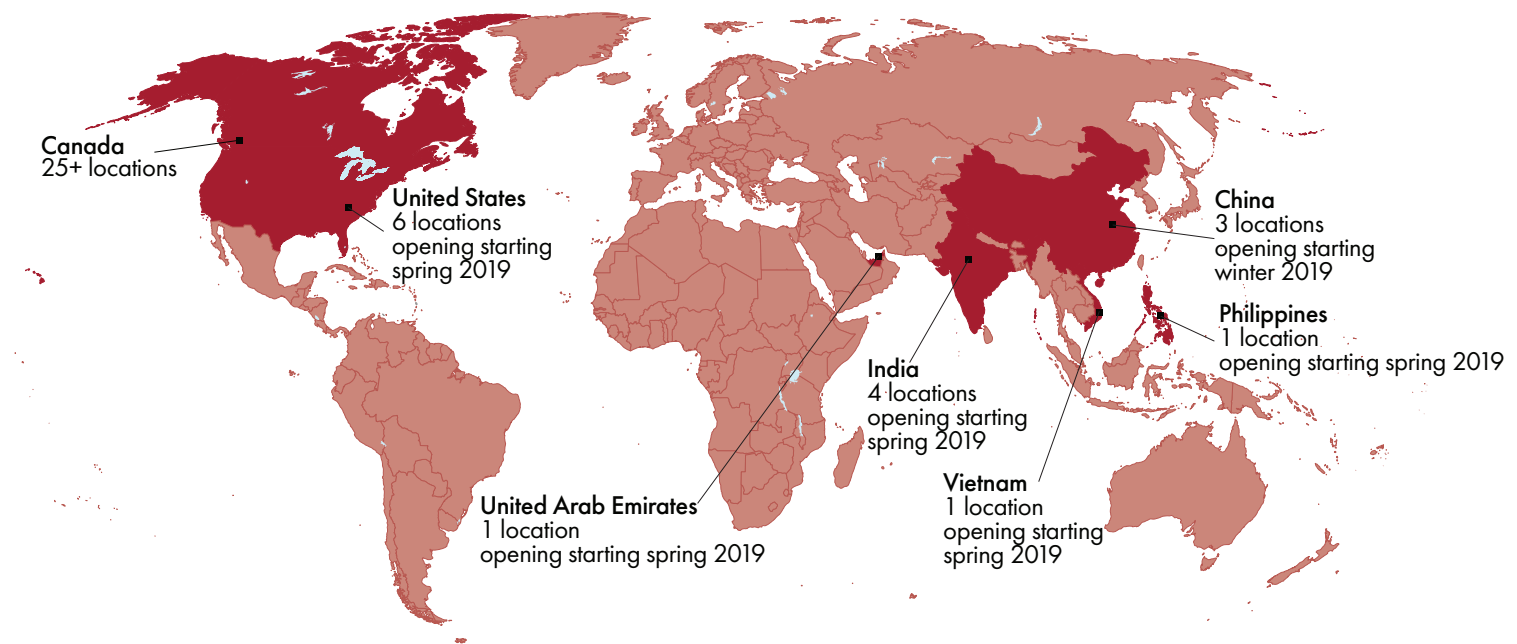
Quick Online Results

Available online in 8 business days, sent to 5 institutions at no extra cost

Growing Availability

CAEL CE is available across Canada, with more test centres coming online nationally and internationally

CAEL®

Testing in Canada & Around the World

Canada
25+ locations

United States
6 locations
opening starting
spring 2019

China
3 locations
opening starting
winter 2019

Philippines
1 location
opening starting spring 2019

India
4 locations
opening starting
spring 2019

Vietnam
1 location
opening starting
spring 2019

United Arab Emirates
1 location
opening starting spring 2019

Test Fees & Frequency in Canada

$280
+ Taxes

Test sittings are available twice monthly in Canada, with monthly test sessions in all cities.

Free
Practice

CAEL CE Pretest
A free opportunity to experience questions on the CAEL CE Test, but canot be used to verify your English proficiency. It is completed in less time than the full CAEL.

International Fees

International test fees may vary. For a complete listing of upcoming test sittings and test fees, visit cael.ca. CAEL CE pretesting is not yet available internationally.

Confidence in CAEL CE Scoring

In order to ensure that CAEL CE scores are accurate and reliable, the Test Research and Development department develops CAEL CE items with a process that upholds the rigorous standards that have made Paragon Testing Enterprises an industry-leading organization. Paragon's quality assurance processes combine efficient automation with meticulous human quality control, and span every step of the test process.

Test Content Review

Rigorous content development processes involve multiple internal and external reviews

Rater Accuracy

Multi-layer training, evaluation, feedback, and retraining; our processes continually monitor raters for quality
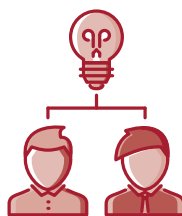
Test Content

Elicits the evidence required to make accurate decisions about test taker's language proficiency
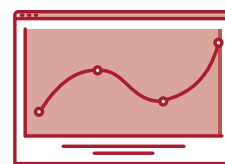
Quality Assurance

Checks and balances at every step through content creation, administration, scoring, and reporting

Double Rating

Delivering accurate, rigorous, and consistent scores for all test takers

Psychometrics

Expertise in test analysis based on continual research and adherence to professional standards

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CAEL CE Test Format

CAEL CE assesses English language proficiency in an academic context. Test takers receive scores for the Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing components, as well as an overall score.

The test includes activities that students engage in during post-secondary study. The topics and tasks in the test are taken from first-year university courses. Some of these tasks will require test takers to use what they have read and listened to in order to answer a question by speaking or writing their response.

CAEL CE is fully computer delivered, providing test takers the opportunity to complete all test components in one sitting. The total test time for CAEL CE is approximately 3.5 hours, and the test fee is $268 CAD + tax (international test fees may vary).

Speaking
Reply to on-screen prompts verbally

7-10 minutes

Integrated Reading
Read passages and reply to questions

35-50 minutes

Integrated Listening
Listen to passages and reply to questions

25-35 minutes

Academic Unit A
Answer comprehension questions and write a reply

60-70 minutes

Academic Unit B
Answer comprehension questions and write a reply

40-45 minutes

CAEL CE Scoring

The Reading and Listening components of CAEL CE are computer-scored. All the answers to CAEL Reading and Listening questions are scored dichotomously: a response is either correct or incorrect. Questions that are left blank are scored as incorrect.

The Speaking and Writing components are scored by Paragon's trained raters, using scoring criteria relevant to standards applied in Canadian academic contexts.

To rate the Speaking and Writing components of CAEL CE, raters use a variety of criteria specifically designed to assess academic speaking and academic writing. These criteria are:

- Completing the task: Whether test takers fulfill the requirements of the task
- Content of the response: How well test takers communicate their ideas or argument
- Vocabulary use: How well test takers' chosen words, idioms, and collocations convey their intended meaning
- Grammatical accuracy: Test takers' degree of mastery over linguistic patterns of English to clearly and precisely communicate their intended message
- Use of source materials: How well test takers use the information from the image, passage, or mini-lecture in their response
- Audience awareness and tone: Test takers' ability to set and maintain an appropriate academic tone throughout their response

CAEL CE Band Scores

After completing CAEL CE, test takers receive a score report that details individual English proficiency scores for the Speaking, Reading, Listening, and Writing components as well as an overall score. CAEL CE scores are reported on a scale from 10 to 90, with accompanying descriptors of what this performance represents. The overall score is calculated as an equally weighted average of the four component scores rounded to the nearest ten-point interval.

CAEL CE Score	CAEL CE Band Descriptor
80–90	**Expert:** Demonstrates a high level of competence, accuracy, and effectiveness in academic/professional settings
70	**Adept:** Uses generally accurate language in most settings; some limitations in flexibility are evident
60	**Advanced:** Displays competence in academic or professional settings
50	**High Intermediate:** Exhibits some competence in academic or professional settings; communication may break down in places
40	**Intermediate:** Demonstrates some ability to comprehend and articulate complex ideas and arguments typical of academic or professional settings
30	**High Beginner:** Expresses basic ideas about familiar topics in routine settings
10–20	**Low Beginner:** Communicates with limited ability

Sample Score Requirements

Institution	Required Score
University of Manitoba	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
Western University	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
University of Toronto	CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5
McGill University	CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5
triOS College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0
George Brown College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0
Langara College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0

CAEL CE Components

Part 1:Speaking

In Part 1, there are three Speaking tasks, each on a different topic:

- Task 1 & 2: Test takers will discuss various aspects of educational plans or experiences and discuss other topics applicable to academic study.

- Task 3: Test takers will describe and draw conclusions about a visual image, such as a chart or graph.

Test takers' responses to Part 1 speaking questions are evaluated on the content of their response, the accuracy of their language, and their ability to reference details in a visual image (if present).

Part 2: Integrated Reading

In Part 2, there are two types of reading passages, each followed by a set of comprehension questions. The passages resemble the types of texts students might encounter during their first year at a college or university. The comprehension questions assess test takers' abilities to:

- Comprehend the general meaning of the passage
- Identify specific information in the passage
- Make inferences based on information in the passage

In the final task of Part 2, test takers respond to one speaking question that is answered using material from one of the reading passages.

Test takers' responses to the reading comprehension questions are scored as correct or incorrect. Test takers' spoken responses are evaluated on the content of their response, the accuracy of their language, and their use of source material.

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CAEL CE Components

🎧 Part 3: Integrated Listening

In Part 3, there are two types of listening passages, each followed by a set of comprehension questions. The content of the listening passages resemble the types of lectures, orientation activities, or academic event announcements students might encounter during their first year at a college or university. The comprehension questions assess test takers' abilities to:

- Comprehend the general meaning of the passage
- Identify specific information in the passage
- Make inferences based on information in the passage

In the final task of Part 3, test takers respond to one speaking question that is answered using material from one of the listening passages.

Test takers' responses to the listening comprehension questions are scored as correct or incorrect. Test takers' spoken responses are evaluated on the content of their response, the accuracy of their language, and their use of source material.

📖 Part 4: Academic Unit A

There are three sections in Part 4, each of which is about an aspect of the same academic topic:

- One reading passage with comprehension questions
- One listening passage with comprehension questions
- One writing question requiring an extended response, using material from both the reading passage and the listening passage.

📖 Part 5: Academic Unit B

There are three sections in Part 5, each of which is about an aspect of the same academic topic. The topic in Part 5 is different than the topic test takers encounter in Part 4.

- One reading passage with comprehension questions
- One listening passage with comprehension questions
- One writing question requiring a short response, using material from the reading passage or the listening passage.

In Part 4 and Part 5, test takers' responses to the reading and listening comprehension questions are scored as correct or incorrect. Test takers' written responses are evaluated on the content of their language, the accuracy of their language, and their use of source materials.

CAEL CE Score Guidance

We recommend that universities and colleges where the primary language is English consider the CAEL CE overall band scores in the table below when setting their English language admission standards.

CAEL CE Score	Linguistically demanding academic programs	Linguistically less demanding academic programs	Linguistically demanding vocational programs	Linguistically less demanding vocational programs
80–90	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
70	Probably acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
60	English needs improvement	Probably acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
50	English needs improvement	English needs improvement	Probably acceptable	Acceptable
40	English needs improvement	English needs improvement	English needs improvement	Probably acceptable

Note that these recommended standards vary based on the nature of the programs for which the candidate is being admitted. If the program calls for a high degree of group work, discussion, and oral presentation as part of its curriculum, receiving institutions might wish to require in addition a minimum band score on the speaking component of the test.

CAEL CE Study Plans

Workbooks
CAEL Skills Workbook

Textbooks
CAEL CE: An Overview

Online Study Programs
Academic Vocabulary Builder
CAEL Accelerate

Instructor-led

Webinars
CAEL CE Online Course
CAEL CE Writing and Speaking Workshop
Overview of CAEL CE

Preparation Programs
CAEL CE Preparation Program

Practice-based

Free Sample Test
CAEL CE Sample Test

Practice Tests
CAEL CE Online Practice Tests, 1-4

CAEL Scores and Identity Verification System

The CAEL Scores and Identity Verification System (SIVS) is a simple and fast way for organizations to verify an individual's CAEL CE scores and identity, and provides administrative personnel with an effective tool for score verification.

Benefits of CAEL SIVS

- The CAEL SIVS allows for organizations to directly verify an individual's scores with the CAEL Office, without relying on mailed, paper score reports.

- In addition, the CAEL SIVS also allows organizations to subscribe to the Bulk Scores Download feature, which allows for organizations to automatically receive scores to that institution.

Sample Score Report

How to Register for the CAEL SIVS

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Registering your organization for CAEL SIVS is fast and easy:

1 **Download the Application Form**
Download the CAEL Scores and Identity Verification System Application Form from **cael.ca/sivs**.

2 **Email the Completed Form**
Email the completed form to **info@cael.ca** with the subject line "CAEL SIVS Application". Once received, Paragon will review your organization's form submission.

3 **Receive SIVS Confirmation**
Once your submission has been reviewed, Paragon will contact you and provide your organization with instructions on how to use the system.

To learn more about SIVS, and to enroll your institution, visit **cael.ca/sivs**.

From our Testing Experts

CAEL CE measures academic language proficiency. What is academic language proficiency?

Post-secondary success requires students to make sense of complex academic content, appropriately articulate their understanding of that content, and negotiate multiple academic and social interactions on campus. The language skills, knowledge, and abilities students need to be successful in college and university is academic language proficiency. A student who has academic language proficiency can understand academic material that is read and heard in English, and can write and speak about this material in an academic style.

As an academic English language proficiency test, CAEL CE:

- Measures a test taker's ability to read, write, listen, and speak in English;
- Assesses whether a test taker has acquired the ability to use English in typical post-secondary classroom situations; and
- Evaluates a test taker's ability to use English according to an ability scale that is related to actual language use in academic contexts.

CAEL CE is an integrated skills test. What does that mean?

Post-secondary success requires students to use many language skills at the same time – students read a book and make an oral presentation, or students listen to a lecture and write down the questions they may have. CAEL CE assesses a test taker's language ability in a way that mirrors the situations students encounter during their first year of post-secondary education. The integrated task design in CAEL CE allows for the interaction of receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing) skills, creating a more realistic testing environment.

CAEL CE tasks include:

- Speaking for academic purposes to relay information and show understanding;
- Reading academic texts of different lengths in order to synthesize or paraphrase key ideas and selectively applying information from the readings;
- Listening to academic mini-lectures and transferring or applying information on a topic introduced by the lecture; and,
- Incorporating what has been learned from readings and mini-lectures in formal, opinion-based responses to academic speaking and writing tasks.

The integrated speaking and writing tasks also provides test takers with common content on which to base their spoken or written responses. By providing common sources, CAEL CE ensures that all test takers, regardless of their background knowledge, have access to the information needed to succeed on the speaking and writing tasks. Test takers do no need and do not benefit from background knowledge of the topics covered in the test.

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From our Testing Experts

Paragon emphasizes research-lead assessment design. Paragon Working Papers, Test Reports, and Research Blogs present the findings from research; validity evidence for CAEL CE, CELPIP, and LPI Tests; and guidance on how to interpret test scores. For a complete list of research publications, conference presentations, working papers, and more, visit paragontesting.ca/research.

Research Publications

PARAGON RESEARCH BLOG: CONTEXT

October 5, 2018

Paragon Research Blog: Context

ACHIEVING FAIRNESS IN DEVELOPING CONTENT FOR STANDARDIZED LANGUAGE TESTS

Paragon Research Blog: Achieving Fairness in Developing Content for Standardized Language Tests

UNDERSTANDING TEST RESPONSE PROCESS: A STUDY OF TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES IN A READING

Paragon Research Blog: Understanding Test Response Process: A Study of Test-Taking Strategies in a Reading Comprehension Test

PARAGON RESEARCH REPORTS

Linking CAEL CE Scores to IELTS – Academic Scores: Full Report

December 27, 2017
Taylor Asbury

Linking CAEL CE Scores to IELTS – Academic Scores: Full Report

PARAGON RESEARCH REPORTS

CELPIP Test 2017 Report

CELPIP Test 2017 Report

Contact Us

Visit **cael.ca** to learn more about Canada's leading academic English language test, or email **info@cael.ca** for more information.

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