

Guidebook for Test Takers

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



CAEL®

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Why Choose CAEL

📍 Prepares you for success in Canada

CAEL is the only test that provides a truly authentic representation of language use in a Canadian academic context. It evaluates how well you combine your speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills to perform academic tasks that you would encounter in your first year at a Canadian university or college.

📍 Accepted by over 180 universities and colleges across Canada

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



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



CAEL is accepted by 85% of the English-speaking CICan member institutions that accept international students.

📍 Free prep

Test takers can take advantage of a range of free resources created and delivered by CAEL experts, including 2 free practice tests, 7 live webinars, and more. Head to [page 9](#) for more details about all of our free prep options!

📍 CAEL Scholarships

\$30,000
Available in scholarships

CAEL scholarships are available for international students, totalling \$30,000 CAD, awarded both to students currently studying in Canada and to students currently studying overseas. Visit cael.ca/scholarships to learn more, view the eligibility criteria, and note the application deadlines.

CAEL Test Format

CAEL is fully computer delivered, and test takers complete all test components in one sitting with no additional appointments or interviews required. CAEL test takers use a computer mouse and keyboard to complete Reading and Writing tasks on the test. They also use a computer microphone and headset to complete the Listening and Speaking tasks. Computerized tests offer test takers a quick and reliable testing experience.

The total test time for CAEL is about 3 ½ hours.

Part 1: Speaking 7-10 minutes

Test takers will reply to on-screen prompts verbally. This component is evaluated on your:

- ✓ Content of response to the speaking tasks
- ✓ Accuracy of the language used in your response
- ✓ Ability to reference details in a visual image (if present)

Part 2: Integrated Reading 35-50 minutes

Test takers will read passages and reply to questions. This component assesses your ability to:

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

Part 3: Integrated Listening 25-35 minutes

Test takers will listen to passages and reply to questions. This component assesses your ability to:

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

Part 4: Academic Unit A 60-70 minutes

Test takers will answer comprehension questions and write a reply. This section includes:

- ✓ 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 40-45 minutes

Test takers will answer comprehension questions and write a reply. This section includes:

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

Two Delivery Options

CAEL is delivered in two ways: CAEL at a test centre, and CAEL Online. Depending on your location, you may have a choice between these two delivery methods. The following chart outlines the key similarities and differences between them. Note that the test length, format, scoring process, and results are the same for both delivery types.

Test Features	CAEL at a Test Centre	CAEL Online
Length + Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 3.5 hours • 5 integrated components • 100% computer-delivered in one sitting 	
Check-in Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive at test centre 45 minutes before test start time for check-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log in up to 30 minutes before scheduled test appointment • Check-in process takes up to 15 minutes
Test Day Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted ID • Copy of test confirmation email • All equipment supplied by test centre, including pen and paper for notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted ID • Compatible desktop or laptop computer; webcam, speakers, and microphone • Private, uncluttered room with table
Breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No scheduled breaks • Test taker may take escorted breaks to washroom or fountain but test does not stop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 scheduled, optional 12-minute breaks • Test taker may not leave desk at any other time
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Listening computer scored • Speaking and Writing tasks scored by trained raters 	
Score Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available within 8 business days • 4 skill scores plus overall score • Scores are official 	

Test Fees

\$290
+ Taxes

The fee includes sending up to five (5) score reports to accepting institutions of your choice.

Check [here](#) for the most up-to-date information about availability of each test type, transfers and cancellations, pricing, and test day procedures.

Easy Online Registration

Registering for CAEL is fast and easy:

1

Create a CAEL Account

Visit cael.ca and click on the "Sign In" link at the top of the page. This will take you to the account page, where you can create a CAEL account.

2

Sign into a CAEL Account

After creating a new CAEL account or signing into an existing account, you can register for a test.

3

Register for CAEL

During registration, select the country, test type, region, and city in which you will take the CAEL Test. You can then choose an available testing date and, if applicable, test centre.

4

Choose the identification to provide

You can choose the type of personal identification that you will bring to the test centre or show to the online proctor.

5

Confirm information and payment option

You can pay via credit card online, or submit a paper test registration form through the mail with an alternative form of payment.

Accessing Test Results

Test results are available in just 8 business days after the CAEL Test has been completed. You will receive an email notification when your scores are ready, and will be able to log in to your CAEL account to view them. We send official test results directly to the institution(s) of your choice. You can select up to 5 institutions to receive your official scores at no extra cost.



Direct to Institutions

During test registration, select the organizations that will receive your CAEL scores



Updates via Email

You will receive test day confirmations and score results via email



Account Dashboard

You can sign into your account at cael.ca to see your results

CAEL Band Scores

After completing CAEL, 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 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 Score	CAEL 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

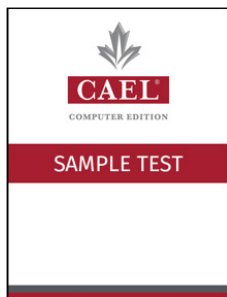
Institution	Required Score
University of Manitoba	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
Western University	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
University of Toronto	CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5
McGill University	CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5
triOS College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0
George Brown College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0
Langara College	CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5
Southern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



Reminder!

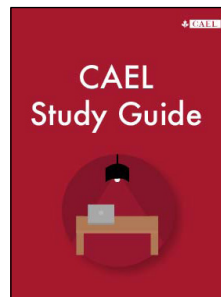
Required CAEL scores are set by each institution. Be sure to check the admission requirements for each institution in advance.

Free CAEL Prep



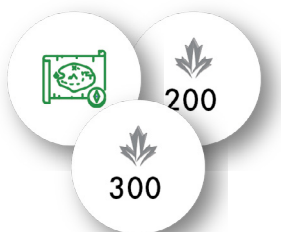
2 Free CAEL Sample Tests

2 complete online sample tests with answer keys, Listening transcripts, and record and playback options for Speaking responses; available [here](#)



CAEL Study Guide

Free PDF that explains test format, scoring criteria, strategies for success, and study tips; downloadable [here](#)



CAEL Webinars

7 live, interactive lessons that cover test content, prep strategies, scoring, and sample responses. Register [here](#). Find a playlist of previously recorded sessions on YouTube [here](#).



CAEL Live

YouTube livestreams covering a wide range of CAEL topics, from response analysis and test prep to being an international student in Canada. Subscribe and access the episode playlist [here](#).



CAEL Prep with Brandi

30+ recorded episodes that work through a CAEL practice test from start to finish, discussing strategies and essential skills for every CAEL task. Find the playlist [here](#).



AMAs on Instagram

Q&A sessions hosted by a CAEL expert. Subscribe to our Instagram, get notified about upcoming episodes, and join them live [here](#).

Paid Prep Products



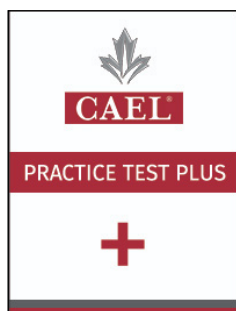
CAEL Practice Tests

Complete online tests with Listening transcripts, record and playback options for Speaking responses, and detailed answer keys. Bundle and save!



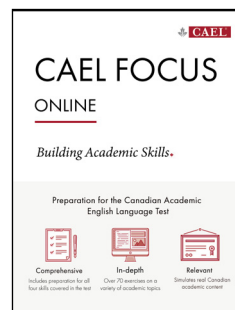
CAEL Accelerate

A self-directed online course that includes over 50 instructional videos on CAEL skills and strategies, plus quizzes, PDF downloads, and the content of a complete practice test



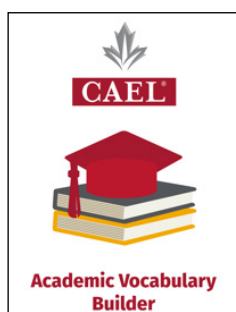
CAEL Practice Test Plus

A self-directed online course that includes 30+ activities covering a range of CAEL topics and skills, PDF downloads, and the content of one complete practice test



CAEL Focus: Building Academic Skills - Online

An online course with thorough lessons on a wide range of CAEL and academic English topics, 70+ interactive activities, practice questions, and detailed answer keys



Academic Vocabulary Builder

An online program that introduces 50 commonly used academic vocabulary items, with videos on pronunciation and usage, quizzes, and practice activities.

For pricing, availability, and additional information, please [visit our online store](#)

Accepting Institutions

Acadia University
Ascenda School of Management
Alberta College of Art & Design
Alexander College
Algoma University
Algonquin College
Ambrose University
Ashton College
Assiniboine Community College
Athabasca University
Bishop's University
Bow Valley College
Brandon University
Brescia University College
Briercrest College and Seminary
Brighton College
British Columbia Institute of Technology
Brock University
Burman University
Campion College
Canadian Business College
Canadian College
Canadian College of Health Science and Technology
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine
Canadian Health Care Academy
Canadian Mennonite University
Canadore College
Cape Breton University
Capilano University
Carleton University
Carlton Trail College
Centennial College
Central Helicopter Training Academy
Coast Mountain College
College of New Caledonia
College of the Rockies
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
Columbia College
Concordia University
Concordia University of Edmonton
Conestoga College
Coquitlam College
Corpus Christi College
Crandall University
Cumberland College
Cypress College
Dalhousie University
Douglas College
Durham College
Eastern College
Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fanshawe College
First Nations University of Canada
Fleming College
Gateway College
George Brown College
Georgian College
Grandesco College
Great Lakes Helicopter Corp.
Great Plains College
Helicopters Canada – Flight Training School
Holland College
Horizon College & Seminary
Humber College
Huron at Western
IH Career College
Imperial Hotel Management College
Kemptville College
Keyano College
Keyin College
KLC College
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Lakehead University
Lakeland College
Langara College
Laurentian University
Lethbridge College
Loyalist College
Luther College
MacEwan University
Makami College Inc.
Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
McGill University
McKenzie College School of Art & Design
McMaster University
Medicine Hat College
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Menno Simons College
Metropolitan Community College
Mohawk College
Mount Allison University
Mount Royal University
Mount Saint Vincent University
New Brunswick Community College
Niagara College
Nipissing University
NorQuest College
North Island College
North West College
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Northern Lakes College
Northern Lights College
Nova Scotia Community College
NSCAD University
OCAD University
Okanagan College
Olds College
Oulton College
Pacific Coast Community College
Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences
Parkland College
Pharma-Medical Science College of Canada
Portage College
Protege School
Queen's University
Red Deer College
Redeemer University
Renison University College
Rhodes Wellness College
Royal Roads University
Ryerson University
Saint Elizabeth Health Career Colleges
Saint Mary's University
Saint Paul University
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Saskatoon Business College Ltd.
Sault College
Selkirk College
Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology
Simon Fraser University
Southeast College
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
St. Clair College
St. Francis Xavier University
St. Jerome's University
St. Lawrence College
St. Mary's University
St. Peter's College
St. Stephen's College
St. Thomas Flight Centre
St. Thomas More College
St. Thomas University
Stanford International College of Business and Technology
The King's University College
Thompson Rivers University
Trent University
Trinity Western University
triOS College
UBC Vantage College
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Guelph
University of King's College
University of Lethbridge
University of Manitoba
University of New Brunswick
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
University of Ottawa
University of Prince Edward Island
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
University of St. Michael's College
University of Sudbury
University of the Fraser Valley
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
University of Windsor
University of Winnipeg
Vancouver Community College
Vancouver Island University
Victoria University
Western Community College
Western University
Westminster College
Wholistic Health Training & Research Centre
Wilfrid Laurier University
York University
Yorkville University

Connect with Us

Visit cael.ca to learn more about Canada's leading academic English language test. For customer service enquiries, contact:

Email: info@cael.ca

Phone (Vancouver Office): 1-(604) 674-8664

Phone (Toronto Office): 1-(647) 793-8279

Toll-free (within North America): 1-855-520-2235

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