

Guidebook for Test Takers

The background of the entire page is a photograph of graduates in black gowns with their caps thrown into the air against a clear blue sky. The caps are scattered across the upper half of the image, creating a sense of celebration and achievement. The graduates' hands and faces are visible at the bottom, reaching up and smiling.

*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 CIECan 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

\$10,000
Available in scholarships

CAEL scholarships are available for international students, totalling \$10,000 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

\$280
+ 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.



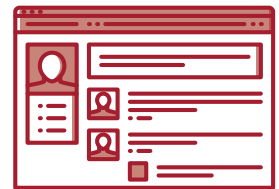
Direct to Institutions

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

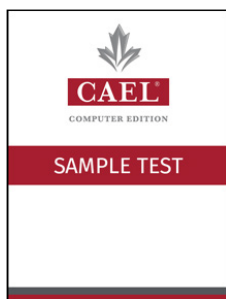
| Institution | Required Score |
|--|--------------------|
| University of Manitoba | CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5 |
| Western University | CAEL 60, IELTS 6.5 |
| University of Toronto | CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5 |
| McGill University | CAEL 70, IELTS 6.5 |
| triOS College | CAEL 60, IELTS 6.0 |
| George Brown College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



Reminder!

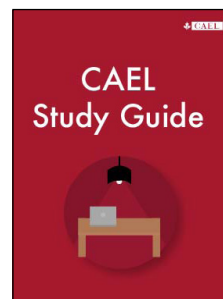
Required CAEL scores are set by each institution. Be sure to check the admission requirements for each institution in advance.

Free CAEL Prep



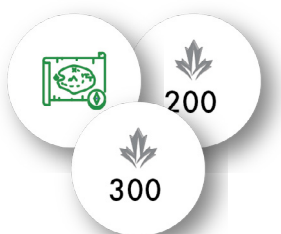
2 Free CAEL Sample Tests

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

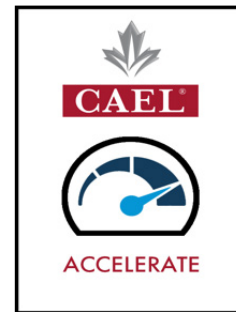
Q&A sessions hosted by a CAEL expert. Subscribe to our Instagram, get notified about upcoming episodes, and join them live [here](#).

Paid Prep Products



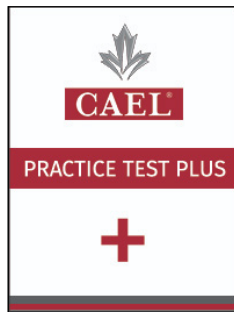
CAEL Practice Tests

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



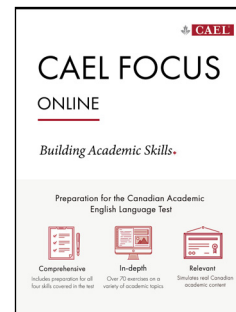
CAEL Accelerate

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



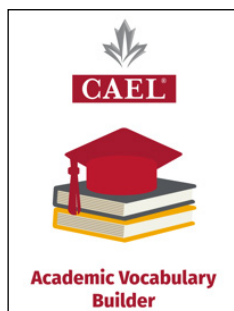
CAEL Practice Test Plus

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