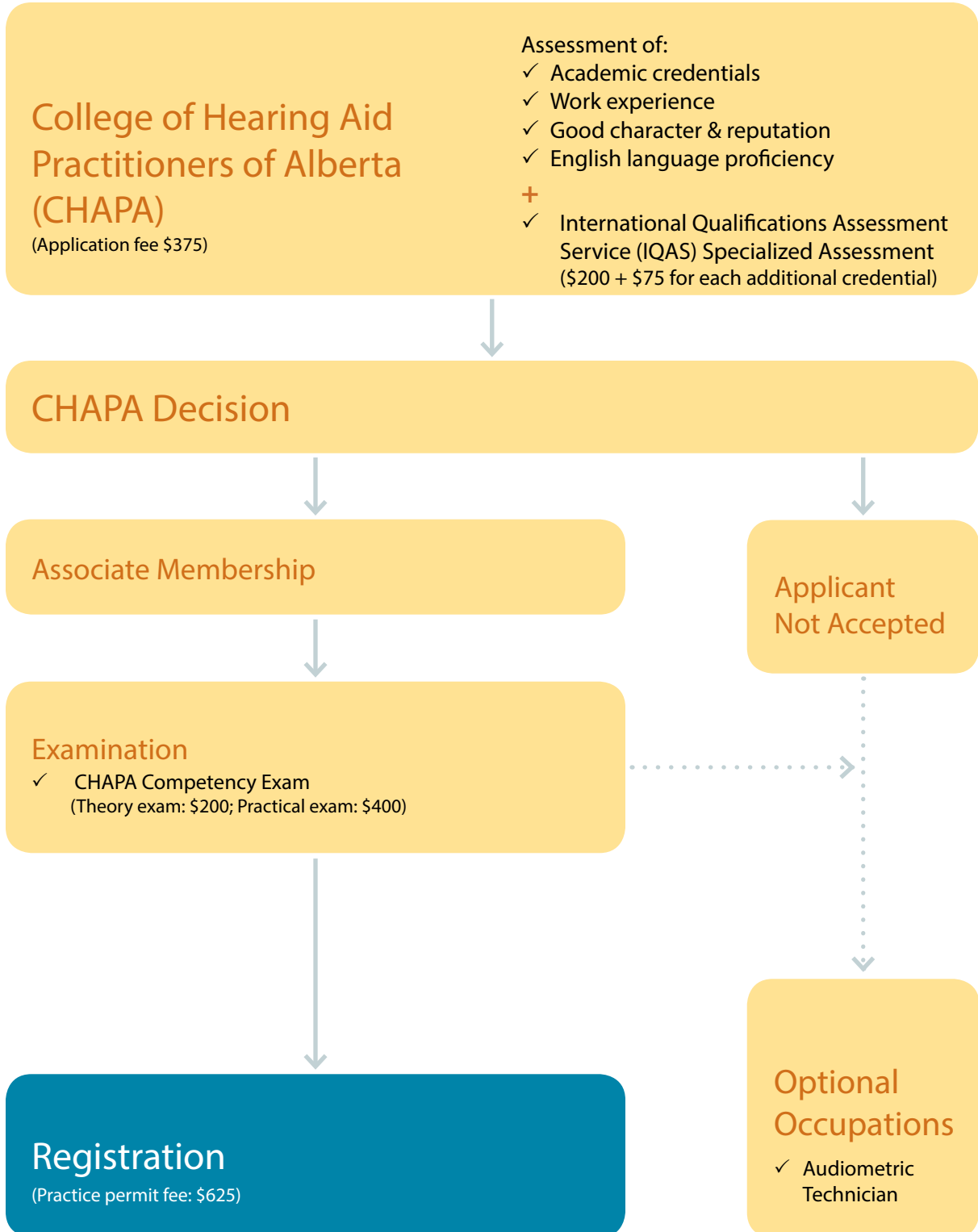


Hearing Aid Practitioner

Registration Process



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Description of Occupation

Hearing Aid Practitioners test a person's hearing ability. They also sell, fit and adjust hearing aids or other listening devices if needed. They provide counselling on hearing aid use, discuss test results with clients and help clients select appropriate hearing aids or assistive listening devices. They also troubleshoot problems with hearing aids, and service and make minor repairs on hearing aids and assistive listening devices.

In Alberta, Hearing Aid Practitioners usually work in private clinics, offices or retail businesses. They might work evenings and weekends to accommodate their patients' schedules.

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

To become a Hearing Aid Practitioner, you must be a registered member of the College of Hearing Practitioners of Alberta (CHAPA).

You must:

- Get a Specialized Assessment from the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
- Have your academic credentials verified by CHAPA
- Provide proof of experience fitting hearing aids
- Provide evidence of English language proficiency
- Provide proof of good character and reputation
- Pay application fee

If your application is approved, you may apply for associate membership with CHAPA. Then, you must successfully complete the CHAPA Competency examination.

Once you pass the Competency exam, you can apply to have your associate membership moved to the temporary register as a Hearing Aid Practitioner. While on the temporary register, you must work under the direct supervision of a qualified registered member who has two (2) or more years of experience as a practicing Hearing Aid Practitioner.

You must successfully pass the NBC-HIS exam within two (2) years of registration with the College. Following this, you may apply to have your name moved from the temporary register to the general register.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

There is no residency requirement. You can start the application process from outside Alberta. However, there is a practical exam component in the registration process, so you will have to be in Alberta in order to take the practical exam.

Requirements

Internationally educated Hearing Aid Practitioners must meet the following requirements:

1. **Academic Credentials**

To become a registered Hearing Aid Practitioner in Alberta, you must have completed a diploma program (60 credits) that included training in hearing aid dispensing.

In order to get your academic credentials assessed, apply to the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) for a Specialized Assessment.

For details on how to obtain an IQAS assessment and to download an application, visit the IQAS website at the address provided at the end of this document. Please ensure you complete the *Release the Assessment Results to Other Institutions/Organizations* section so that the assessment report can be sent directly to CHAPA.

Then, submit the following to CHAPA:

- Results from your IQAS assessment
- Official transcripts confirming the date on which the degree/diploma/certificate was conferred; and a verified and signed summary of clinical practice hours. The documents must be original and sent directly to CHAPA from the issuing academic institution.
- A handbook, syllabus, or calendar that provides a detailed description of the program of study and clinical practicum. The course descriptions should include: a) course objectives and format, and b) total number of lecture hours
- Original or certified-true copies of degrees, diplomas, certificates (CHAPA will retain a copy and will return the original documents).

2. **Work Experience**

You will need to show that you have experience in fitting hearing aids, whether you gained the experience through your education or work experience. To demonstrate this, please submit:

- A current resume indicating experience in fitting hearing aids and job history.

If you are able to provide this, and have the necessary academic credentials, then additional work experience is not required for the registration process.

3. **Good Character and Reputation**

You must provide CHAPA with:

- Two (2) letters of reference that attest to your good character and reputation
- A criminal records check.

4. **English Language**

If English is not your first language, you must submit evidence of English language proficiency. CHAPA accepts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

5. Examinations

You must take the following examination before you can become a registered Hearing Aid Practitioner:

- CHAPA Competency Exam—this examination is done in two (2) parts: the Theory exam (\$200.00) and the Practical exam (\$400.00). The Theory exam is offered four (4) times per year. The Practical exam is scheduled on an individual basis.

Within two (2) years of becoming a registered Hearing Aid Practitioner, you will need to successfully complete one (1) additional examination:

- National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS) examination. This examination is done on a computer and available at sites in four (4) Alberta locations: Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat. If you belong to the International Hearing Society (IHS) through your previous work in your country of origin, you will be able to pay a special member application and exam rate. If not, you will be required to pay the regular rates.

Payment

The following fees must be submitted during the registration process. Contact the CHAPA for payment arrangements. Fees are in Canadian dollars.

CHAPA Fees	
Application Fee	\$375
CHAPA Theory Exam	\$200
CHAPA Practical Exam	\$400
Associate Member Fee	\$250
CHAPA Annual Practice Permit Fee (pro-rated if the application is made after Oct. 1)	\$625
NBC-HIS Fees	
Examination Application Fee	\$75
Examination Fee	\$150
Other Fees	
IQAS Specialized Assessment	\$200 (+\$75 for each additional degree or credential)
*Fees are subject to change. See association for most up-to-date fees.	

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Hearing Aid Practitioners, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	35
Average wage per hour	\$21.60
Average salary per year	\$38,981

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Audiometric Technician.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Hearing Aid Practitioner](#) (for information on all occupations see www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

The College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta
4017 63 Street
Camrose, Alberta T4V 2X2
Toll-Free: 866-990-4327
Email: registrar@chapa.ca
Website: www.chapa.ca

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
9th Floor, 108 Street Building 9942 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J5
Phone: 780-427-2655
Fax: 780-422-9734
Website: <http://www.work.alberta.ca/iqas>

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Hearing Aid Practitioner certification visit the CHAPA website at www.chapa.ca.

Application Forms and Information

Application Process:
www.chapa.ca/Individuals_educated_outside_of_Canada.aspx

Examinations

National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS) examination:
<http://nbc-his.com/exam/exam-info-policy>