

Accreditation of Massage Therapy Education

One of the requirements for registration as a Registered Massage Therapist/Massage Therapist (RMT/MT) with the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO) is the successful completion of an approved Massage Therapy education program.

The Registration Regulation under the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991*, has been amended to give CMTO the authority to approve programs for the purposes of registration, starting **January 1, 2027**. CMTO will be approving programs that are accredited by the Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CMTCA).

Transition Period

Until December 31, 2026, a graduate of a Massage Therapy program recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities meets CMTO's education requirement for registration. As of January 1, 2027, students must enroll in an accredited program in order for their diploma to meet the education requirement for registration. The transition period is intended to provide education programs that are currently recognized, but that have not yet achieved accreditation, sufficient time to do so.

Impact on students

A student who begins a recognized program during the transition period and who graduates after the transition period is complete will still have their diploma recognized by CMTO.

The table below shows the various scenarios related to a student beginning a program **before**, **during**, and **after** the transition period. The student's diploma will meet CMTO's education requirement for registration in every case but one: if they begin an unaccredited program after the end of the transition period.

Program start date	Program completion date	Is the program accredited on the completion date?	Does the diploma meet the registration requirement?
Before transition period	During transition period	Yes	Yes
		No	Yes
	After transition period	Yes	Yes
		No	Yes

During transition period	During transition period	Yes	Yes
		No	Yes
	After transition period	Yes	Yes
		No	Yes
After transition period	After transition period	Yes	Yes
		No	No

Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CMTCA)

The CMTCA is a national body that accredits Massage Therapy education programs in Canada. CMTO has adopted the accreditation standards and process administered by the CMTCA to identify Massage Therapy education programs that meet the requirements for registration as an RMT/MT in Ontario.

Achieving accreditation

Information about the accreditation standards, process, and a list of programs that have already achieved accreditation is available on the [CMTCA website](#). CMTCA has developed multiple resources to support educators as they go through the accreditation process, including:

- Live information webinars for educators who have not yet initiated accreditation;
- A CMTCA advisor assigned to the educational institution as soon as they start the accreditation process to provide direct support throughout the process; and
- Information and resources in the form of an accreditation handbook, e-learning modules, webinars, and accreditation worksheets.

Maintaining accreditation

An accreditation decision is for **one, three or five** years. To maintain its accredited status, an education program is required to continue to meet CMTCA's standards. Any substantive changes to the program, such as reallocations of time or resources, or changes in ownership or senior staffing, must be approved by CMTCA. Accredited programs submit an annual report to CMTCA which includes information about ongoing quality improvements.

Role of the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Educators must continue to meet all requirements set by the [Ministry of Colleges and Universities](#) both during and after the 30-month transition period. For Career Colleges, this includes requirements related to school registration and program approval. Information specific to Career Colleges is available on the [Career Colleges](#) page of the Ministry's website.