



Wellsprings College of Massage Therapy Diploma Program and Student Clinic

Enrollment Package & Guidance from Ministry



Policy Directive issued by the Superintendent of Career Colleges of Ontario: One of the requirements for registration as a Registered Massage Therapists/ Massage therapist (RMT/ MT) with the College of Massage Therapist of Ontario (CMTO) is the successful completion of an approved Massage Therapy education program. The Registration regulation under the Massage Therapy Act, 1919 has been amended to give the CMTO the authority to approve educational programs for the purposes of registration, starting January 1, 2027. The CMTO will be approving programs that are accredited by the Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CMTCA).



WELLSPRINGS COLLEGE HAS BEEN GRANTED “PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION” in May 2024.

WHY FULL ACCREDITATION IS REQUIRED: The Accreditation process is designed to protect students in educational programs requiring regulatory approval such as massage therapy in the province of Ontario. All private and public colleges are currently undergoing this process. Accreditation verifies colleges have actively met all the theoretical and clinical components of a approved curriculum designed to meet the educational standards and requirements set out by the regulatory College of Massage Therapist of Ontario. These requirements assure graduates meet the CMTO Competencies to Practice and the Performance Indicators for Entry-to-Practice and for “Registration” as a practicing Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) professional.



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 full accreditation, sufficient time to do so.



IMPACT ON STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM: STUDENTS WHO BEGIN a recognized program **during the transition period** and who **graduates after the transition period**, December 31, 2026, is complete **will still have their diploma recognized by CMTO.**

The Ministries Career College's Superintendent's main concern will be the impact to students who are enrolled in the program and who are hoping to enter the labour market upon graduation. Any decision regarding a programs approval under the *Ontario Career College's Act, 2005* will be carefully considered and centered on the interest of students.

THE TRANSITIONTIME TABLE: This table provided by the CMTO demonstrates 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 a student 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

HOW THIS WILL AFFECT YOUR ENROLLMENT AT WELLSPRINGS. Every student who enrolls in the massage therapy program here at Wellsprings during the transition period and completes the program with a 70% average or better is entitled to register for the CMTO provincial examinations. Every effort will be granted this cohort of graduating students to have adequate preparation for these examinations. Wellsprings appreciates

that graduates will bear the cost of the examinations and how critical they are for successful entry into a career as a professional massage therapist. All students during this transition cohort are closely monitored by the Ministry branch of Career Colleges and protections have been put in place to mitigate any problems or issues that may arise.

WHY ACCREDITATION IS REQUIRED: The ACCREDITATION PROCESS IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT STUDENTS IN PROGRAMS REQUIRING REGULATORY APPROVAL, SUCH AS MASSAGE THERAPY in the province of Ontario. It ensure that the college is actively working towards compliance of the accreditation standards and to ensure the theoretical and clinical components of the curriculum meet the educational standards and requirements set out by the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario. The statutory authority that sets out entry-to -practice standards and conditions for “Registration” as a practicing massage therapist professional.

In order to become registered with the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO), applicants must meet the education requirements articulated in Paragraph 5(1)1 of the Registration Regulation under the Massage Therapy Act, 1991 by completing:

- i... a program in massage therapy that was, at the time the applicant completed the program, approved by the Registration Committee or by another body that was approved by the Registration Committee for that purpose, or
- ii....a course of study that, in the opinion of the Registration Committee, is equivalent to the programs described in subparagraph i.



WHAT IS CMTCA ACCREDITATION: Program accreditation through the Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CMTCA) is a way for massage therapy programs to demonstrate that they meet Canada’s national program standards and the College of Massage Therapist Ontario (CMTO’s) approval of educational institutions.

The CMTCA is a completely independent organization whose job it is to review massage therapy programs in Canada. This assessment is based on a long list of criteria, including the quality of the curriculum, student experience, facilities and overall organization of the school. Their process includes both an in-depth review of the school’s documentation and a multi-day site visit at the campus.

Schools must follow the national curriculum and delivery standards, as accreditation is mandatory, and the professional regulatory College CMTO will recognize only those programs that meet these standards.

The Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CMTCA) has a comprehensive process in place to accredit Massage Therapy education programs. The purpose of the accreditation process is to provide a mechanism for quality assurance and continuing improvement of entry-level Massage Therapy education programs across Canada.

CMTCA accreditation is a two-step process:

1. Preliminary Accreditation: The education program completes a self-assessment, rating themselves against criteria for each accreditation standard and then submitting their evaluation and evidence to CMTCA. Once reviewed and approved, the program is granted Preliminary Accreditation.
2. Accreditation: to be granted full Accreditation, a site visit will be scheduled where CMTCA staff and two surveyors will assess compliance with the accreditation standards. After the site visit, the program will receive a decision of either one, three or five years of accreditation, or non-accreditation.



It is important to note that Preliminary Accreditation is not the same as an Accreditation decision, and a program is not fully accredited until a site visit has been successfully completed.

By granting full accreditation, the CMTCA is announcing that the school:

- Meets the curriculum standards of the regulated profession of massage therapy
- Awards diplomas only to massage therapists who have proven themselves skilled, knowledgeable, and effective
- Delivers what it promises; qualified instructors, relevant content and a culture of continuous improvement.

Accreditation Benefit and Risks to Students: As a student enrolling in a program under review for full accreditation you will be participating in an important aspect of educational regulation and development. We at Wellsprings College recognize the value of your contribution and the possible risks for achieving the entry-to-practice skill set requirement for massage therapy after graduation. Upon completion of the program at Wellsprings we ensure that you have adequate preparation and additional assistance to master all the clinical techniques and knowledge needed to successfully pass the CMTO Oral/ Practical provincial examinations. Further, during your studies here the faculty and staff will do everything necessary to obtain “full accreditation” status with the CMTCA within the deadline period of January 1 2027.

We recognize that the final determinant will be a graduate students’ preparedness to write and successfully pass the CMTO provincial examinations. This includes having the knowledge and technical skill to practice at a competent level successfully in the healthcare environment.

Your success as a massage therapist will depend on your hands-on assessment and treatment skills, your knowledge of the human body, your understanding of massage theory, your business know-how, and your ability to practice massage in a safe and sustainable way. These are the skills and knowledge that you will use to build a loyal client base and keep them coming back for more.

STUDENT ASSURANCES: Upon completion of the massage therapy program any time required for additional clinical practice and preparatory instruction will be given until you feel prepared and confident to pass the CMTO Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ), and the Objectively Structured Clinical Evaluation OSCE examinations.

The Ministry also requires that we have alternative substitutions for student completion of the massage therapy program and these involve, transfers to another accredited college and tuition refund obligations. If for any reason the Superintendent of the Career Colleges branch initiates one of these remedies, you can be assured that the College will oblige the Ministry directives including to find an acceptable alternative program with minimal inconvenience to your study year. All tuition refunds, if directed, are regulated under the *Ontario Career Colleges Act, 2005* part VII sections 24 to 33 and which eliminates any dispute over settlements. The Superintendent has final ruling over all tuition reimbursements.

MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION – COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES: The College must maintain Accreditation and approval with the CMTO and Ministry of Colleges and Universities with an on-going process of Self-Assessment and reporting of changes and updates to the CMTCA. The College on a regular basis reviews report from the program against the accreditation standards to determine and address gaps and areas for improvement of its curriculum, policies and faculty. Accredited programs submit an annual report to CMTCA which includes information about ongoing quality improvements.

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 in the Ministry’s website



NEXT STEPS FOR WELLSPRINGS COLLEGE: THE NEXT STEP in the advancement of Wellsprings to FULL Accreditation is the “**Site Visit**” by CMTCA surveyors to observe and assess compliance with the accreditation standards. This review, known as the Tracer Method, will include examining the college documentation, policies, as well as conducting conversations and discussions with staff, instructors and students.

The Tracer Method: Is a recognized method of evaluation used in by healthcare accrediting bodies which utilizes observation, discussion and interaction with a wide variety of people to collect information from a multiple and varied perspective. The CMTCA “**site visit**” engages the participation of the entire College, staff, instructors, faculty, educational director and students. Students make an important contribution to this process by providing relevant information about their studies and experiences at the College and will involve a 2 or 3 day interruption in regular class schedules. As a learning experience students will come to appreciate the importance of the educational approval process and its benefits to their acquisition and development of knowledge and skill set.

The **Site Visit scheduled** will take place approximately 8 to 10 months after the beginning of a new cohort of students into the program. By week 36, (8 months) students will have taken 8 final examinations completing 8 courses in the program. These results, including instructor evaluation surveys will provide insight to the efficacy of the program to deliver the expected knowledge and skill outcomes for the visiting Tracer surveyors to assess. Mid-Term Evaluations would be distributed to students by week 38. By week 65 (14 months) students will have undertaken another 9 examinations and have completed more than 50% to the program.

By collecting information from multiple and varied perspectives of all involved in the instruction and administration of the massage therapy program, this “on the ground and in the moment” provides verification of whether the standards for the education program are adequately established and actively followed. The surveyors visits are two days in length and while may seem like a disruption to the usual class schedules these assessment are invaluable for assisting in the improvement of the program content and delivery.

Following the Site Visit the CMTCA will verify compliance of educational standards, and render a final accreditation decision. This decision will be shared with the Ministry Superintendent and the student body.

PROGRAM STANDARDS The criteria set forth by the CMTCA which are accessed during the Site Visit.

Standard 1.0 Curriculum Content and Delivery. The education program’s curriculum teaches students the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective, safe, and ethical massage therapy.

Standard 2.0 Faculty and Learning. Students are taught by competent and qualified faculty and assessed fairly and objectively.

Standard 3.0 Student Support. The education program creates a student-centred learning environment focused on supporting students and helping them succeed.

Standard 4.0 ..Leadership and Administration. The educational program’s leadership ensures the program is developed, managed, and evaluated effectively.

Standard 5.0...Human Resources. The education program follows effective human resources practices to support the delivery of quality education.

Standard 6.0.. Resources and Infrastructure. The program has the resources and infrastructure needed to manage the program. Including buildings, grounds, equipment, supplies, and learning resources belonging to or used by the educational program.

Standard 7.0 .. Quality Improvement. The program gathers and analyzes data and uses it to make Improvements to the program.



Wellsprings look forward to welcoming your participation into our program.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DETAILS AND QUESTIONS:

Wellsprings College Registrar: registrar@wellspringscollege.com TEL: 905 289 234 9141

CMTCA: info@cmtca.ca Tel: 416-466-3427

[1] <https://www.cmtca.ca/ouraccreditationprocess>

[2] <https://www.cmtca.ca/policies/canadian-massage-therapy-council-for-accreditation>

[3] <https://www.cmtca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Accreditation-of-Massage-Therapy-Education-Final.pdf>

Ontario Ministry of Career Colleges and Universities

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/career-colleges#section-0>

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