



Ontario Herbalists Association Professional Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Professional Member of the Ontario Herbalists Association. This would grant the successful applicant the designation of Registered Herbalist (RH).

Please visit <https://ontarioherbalists.ca/application-procedure> for a full list of required documents. A non-refundable processing fee of \$50.00 + \$6.50 HST = \$56.50* is required at the time of application.

Please complete all of the following information.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Business Phone _____

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Website _____

Languages Spoken _____

- I would like to volunteer for the Ontario Herbalists Association

Under which category are you applying for Professional Membership (refer to attached Education Standards):

- 1a
- 1b
- 2
- 3

Please include all information required, as outlined in the section under which you are applying (see attached Education Standards). Please attach supporting documentation.

Your primary discipline is:

- Herbalist
- Naturopath
- Medical Physician
- Homeopath
- Other (Please specify) _____

Your category of discipline is:

- Traditional Western Herbalism
- Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Traditional Indigenous / First Nations Medicine
- Ayurvedic Medicine
- Other (please specify) _____

What percentage of your practice is herbal based?

- 0 to 25%
- 25 to 50%
- 50 to 75%
- 75 to 99%
- 100%

Have you been convicted of, or charged with any by-law infractions, or do you have any convictions or pending criminal / civil litigation relating to your business, or operation as a holistic practitioner?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify: _____

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by any other professional association?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

PLEASE NOTE: All applicants under all categories are subject to final approval by the OHA Board of Directors.

If accepted as a Professional Member in the Ontario Herbalists Association, I agree to the following conditions of membership:

1. To abide by the Ontario Herbalists Association Professional Code of Ethics;
2. To abide by the Ontario Herbalists Association Professional Code of Practice;
3. To post at all times and in full view of my clients the Professional Code of Ethics and Professional Code of Practice;
4. To pay annual membership dues in full as and when required.

*Note: The current annual professional dues are \$225.00 + \$29.25 HST = \$254.25**

I understand that failing to abide by the conditions of membership may render me liable to disciplinary action which may result in loss of the privileges and benefits of my Professional Membership in the Ontario Herbalists Association.

The Ontario Herbalists Association assumes no responsibility for any health care service or advice given by its Professional Members. Being accepted as a Professional Member does not guarantee an ability to practice herbal medicine.

Consent: By signing this form, I consent to my personal information being collected for OHA documents only and for the purpose of member activities and communications. My information will not be used for any other purposes unless permission is given in writing.

I certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my understanding.

Signature _____ Date _____

** All fees are subject to change. Professional memberships renew November 1st of each year.*

Education Standards For Professional Membership in the Ontario Herbalists Association

The OHA has adopted certain minimum standards for its professional members which we feel are reasonable to ensure the safe practice of herbal medicine.

A professional member of the OHA is expected to meet or exceed the following education and training requirements.

There are four possible sub-categories available:

1 (a). Applicants with formal education qualifications acquired through a single program of education which meets or exceeds the minimum requirement of 1500 hours as outlined below:

At least 1100 hours of instruction / training, or equivalent in distance education format.

Of this, a minimum of 500 hours must consist of instruction in core herbal subjects such as materia medica, herbal therapeutics, herbal pharmacology, herbal pharmacy, history and philosophy of herbalism, herbal energetics, and field identification. The core herbal subjects should focus primarily on a single herbal tradition (eg. Western herbalism, TCM, Ayurveda, etc.)

In addition, a minimum of 350 hours must consist of instruction in the sciences including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, and nutrition.

At least 350 hours of practical supervised clinic. Clinic hours must primarily consist of client / patient consultations, assessment, protocol development, remedy formulation, herbal dispensing, record keeping and follow-up.

The program may consist of a combination of classroom, distance education and / or apprenticeship hours.

Applicants must submit documentary evidence to support all training hours. If training has been acquired through a program not recognized* by the OHA, detailed transcripts must be provided, together with contact information for the school and/or instructor.

If training was completed more than three years prior to application, the applicant must be able to demonstrate on-going education, professional achievement, or clinical practice during the intervening years. Documentary evidence must be included.

** Certain programs of study are known to meet the minimum requirements for professional membership in the OHA. These programs are listed on our website. In addition, specific programs may be approved which do not necessarily meet all of the hourly requirements. These are reviewed individually, and are approved based on the quality of the training provided.*

1 (b). Applicants who meet the required number of hours of training, but who have done so through more than one program of instruction will be asked to take a written and / or oral examination as part of their assessment.

Applicants must submit documentary evidence to support all training hours. Detailed transcripts must be provided, together with contact information for the schools and/or instructors.

Notwithstanding the OHA minimum requirements, all applicants are expected to have met the training requirements for the particular tradition in which they intend to practice.

2. Applicants who have received training or have apprenticed within an oral tradition that does not recognize certificates or diplomas as a means of attesting to the qualifications of practitioners within that tradition, will be assessed on the basis of the recommendations of their teacher(s) as long as the latter are respected within their community, and their authority is recognized within their tradition.

Their teacher(s) must be willing to either:

(i) Meet or speak with a representative of the OHA Board of Directors or Professional Members Committee and provide their verbal and written assurance that the applicant is qualified to practice within their tradition, or

(ii) If their tradition does not allow them to provide their assurances in writing, meet with two representatives of the OHA Board of Directors or Professional Members Committee and provide their verbal assurance that the applicant is qualified to practice within their tradition. The Board of Directors has the right to change this requirement to meeting with one representative of the OHA if it feels that a request to meet with two representatives may be considered disrespectful.

3. The OHA recognizes that many herbalists do not have the formal herbal education outlined in 1 above, and provision is made for applicants who fall into this category.

Applicants in this category should submit all of the following information:

Documentary evidence of all training in relevant fields.

Documentary evidence of completion of any supervised practical hours with a herbalist(s), together with the qualifications and training of the herbalist(s).

The applicant must have established and maintained a herbal practice for a minimum of 5 out of the past 7 years, and must provide evidence of practice (advertising, business registration, etc.). The applicant should also provide 1 professional healthcare practitioner letter of reference, and 5 client references. All references should be willing to allow direct contact from the OHA as necessary.

All applicants under this category will be asked to demonstrate their ability to practice safely by taking a written and/or oral examination.

Written examinations have their foundation in the Western herbal tradition at this time. Applicants who are trained in other disciplines may request a peer assessment only. In this case, every effort will be made to assemble a committee with knowledge and understanding of the applicant's tradition.

The OHA reserves the right to request a peer assessment for any applicant, regardless of documentation.

All applicants under all categories are subject to final approval by the OHA Board of Directors.

These standards are subject to ongoing review by the OHA Professional Members Committee.

Updated January 2011