

# Does French Translation of the SAMP Examination Impact Performance?

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## Background

To maintain the validity of the CFPC Certification Examination in Family Medicine, it is important that the CFPC utilize a robust translation process to ensure that the French version of the examination is equitable to the English version.

## Objective

To determine if candidates completing the French translated Short Answer Management Problem (SAMP) examination component perform similar to candidates completing the English version.

## Methods

All residents from 17 family medicine residency programs in Canada completing the SAMP component of the certification examination for the first time.

Spring 2022 (N=1,407) > English=1,039  
French=368  
Fall 2022 (N=93) > English=68  
French=25  
Spring 2023 (N=1,369) > English=1,036  
French=333

## Design and Analysis



### Data Analysis



Statistical analyses were conducted comparing the performance of English and French candidates on individual SAMP cases and questions.

The exam committee reviewed questions with statistically significant performance differences; questions were removed from scoring if the difference was a result of ambiguity of meaning present in either language, translation error, or marking issue.

A general linear model evaluated the difference in overall mean SAMP scores between the language groups controlling for: gender, medical school type (international vs. Canadian), and residency program.

Multivariate logistic regression determined if language was associated with a passing outcome controlling for covariates.

## Findings



Questions Identified with Significant Difference in Performance Between the Language Groups and Removed From Scoring

**Spring 2022**  
6 questions across forms identified  
All 6 ENG performed higher  
0 removed

**Fall 2022**  
7 questions identified  
5 ENG higher; 1 removed  
2 FRE higher; 0 removed

**Spring 2023**  
11 questions across forms identified  
6 ENG higher; 3 removed  
5 FRE higher; 2 removed

Language was a weak but statistically significant predictor of passing the Spring 2022 exam (French vs. English OR=0.40; 95% CI: 0.23-0.72)

SAMP pass rate for both language groups was > 90%

Fall 2022 exam

No significant difference in mean SAMP scores or pass rates observed between the language groups

Language was not a statistically significant predictor of passing the Spring 2023 exam (French vs. English OR=1.26; 95% CI: 0.69-2.30)

SAMP pass rate for both language groups was > 90%

### Comparison of Spring 2022 SAMP Mean Scores – General Linear Model

Source	F	Sig.	Partial $\eta^2$ Effect Size	Interpretation (adjusted means)
Language (ENG vs FRE)	9.23	0.002	0.007	Very small difference ENG=67.98; FRE=66.05
Gender	4.12	0.016	0.006	Very small difference Women=67.91; Men=67.30
Med School (CMG vs IMG)	34.20	<0.001	0.025	Small difference CMG=68.64; IMG=66.22
Residency program	2.91	<0.001	0.034	Small differences between 17 programs

Model adjusted  $R^2 = 0.10$  (or 10% of the variance in SAMP scores is explained by the 4 variables)

### Comparison of Spring 2023 SAMP Mean Scores – General Linear Model

Source	F	Sig.	Partial $\eta^2$ Effect Size	Interpretation (adjusted means)
Language (ENG vs FRE)	0.38	0.54	0.000	No significant difference ENG=67.53; FRE=67.30
Gender	0.52	0.59	0.001	No significant difference Women=68.31; Men=66.50
Med School (CMG vs IMG)	34.51	<0.001	0.026	Small difference CMG=69.44; IMG=65.37
Residency program	2.37	0.001	0.030	Small differences between 17 programs

Model adjusted  $R^2 = 0.13$  (or 13% of the variance in SAMP scores is explained by the 4 variables)

## Conclusion

The French translation of the SAMP examinations did not result in significant performance differences between the two language groups.

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