



COLLEGE OF
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
OF ALBERTA

English Language Proficiency Standard Policy

Revised June 2019



This document is linked to legislation:

[Health Professions Act](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation](#)

This document is linked to other documents that direct expectations of professional behaviour or requirements for practice:

N/A

This document is linked to related supportive documents:

N/A

REVISIONS and UPDATES

June 13, 2019

The legislative mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is to serve and protect the public by ensuring its members deliver safe, competent and ethical nursing care. A Policy is a clear and concise statement outlining requirements and expected behaviours that will be monitored and enforced.

Approval Date	May 2, 2013
Revision Date	June 13, 2019
Approver	Council



POLICY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARD

INTRODUCTION All applicants to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) must be sufficiently proficient in the English language to be able to provide professional services in English as stated in section 11(1) of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation*.

PURPOSE The purpose of this policy is to outline how applicants can demonstrate English language proficiency to the CLPNA.

POLICY English language proficiency involves four criteria: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are sufficiently proficient in the English language. This language proficiency standard must be met prior to registration.

Applicants who have completed secondary school in Canada are considered to have met the English language proficiency standard. The CLPNA may request verification of program completion.

Applicants whose primary language is not English are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by providing evidence to the CLPNA. For this purpose, primary language is defined as the language that was primarily used for speaking, listening, reading, and writing in childhood.

An applicant whose primary language is not English can demonstrate their English language proficiency to the CLPNA in one of the following manners:

1. Provide evidence for completing a Canadian Practical Nursing Program in English (only original transcripts are accepted). The CLPNA may request scores from English language assessment tests that the applicant used to meet admission requirements

into the practical nursing program. If test scores are older than two (2) years, the applicant may be asked to rewrite the English language assessment test.

2. Provide evidence for completing four (4) years of full time equivalent post-secondary education in a subject other than practical nursing in English at a Canadian institution (only original transcripts are accepted). The CLPNA may request scores from English language assessment tests that the applicant used to meet admission requirements into the post-secondary education program(s). If test scores are older than two (2) years, the applicant may be asked to rewrite the English language assessment test.
3. Complete either the Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses or the International English Language Testing System (Academic Version Only) test with passing scores. Test results must be originals and provided to the CLPNA directly from the testing facility. Combined scores from more than one test or from more than one sitting of the same test will not be accepted. Details about the tests are presented in the Appendix.

CONCLUSION Verification of English language proficiency in the registration process ensures that all LPNs are able to provide professional nursing services in English, and applicants can demonstrate that they have met the standard in one of the manners described in the policy.

If after reading this comment you have any question about the English language proficiency standard, please contact the CLPNA at registration@clpna.com.



Appendix

English Test	Passing Score	Contact to Write Test	Notes
CELBAN- Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses	Listening: 10 Reading: 8 Writing: 7 Speaking: 8	The CELBAN Centre http://www.celbancentre.ca/Home.aspx	It is recommended that applicants first complete a CELBAN readiness self-assessment test.
IELTS- International English Language Testing System (Academic Version Only)	Listening: 7.5 Reading: 6.5 Writing: 7.0 Speaking: 7.0	International English Language Testing System Alberta: 1-403-543-7300 www.ielts.org	Once on the IELTS website click on Test Takers/Find my nearest test centre/ choose your country, then choose your test centre.