



COLLEGE OF  
**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES**  
OF ALBERTA

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# Policy

## English Language Proficiency

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Approved: March 16, 2023



**This document is linked to legislation:**

[Health Professions Act](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation](#)

[Labour Mobility Act](#)

**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

*The legislative mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is to serve and protect the public by ensuring its registrants 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    March 16, 2023  
Approver        Council

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**INTRODUCTION** The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) has the legislative authority and responsibility, through the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, to carry out our activities in a manner that serves and protects the interest of the public.

All applicants to the CLPNA must be sufficiently proficient in the English language to be able to provide professional services in English as required in accordance with section 28(1)(f) of the HPA.

**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 requirement must be met prior to registration.

An applicant can demonstrate their English language proficiency to the CLPNA in one of the following manners:

1. Provide satisfactory evidence that the nursing education was completed in English, in any country (only original transcripts are accepted).
2. Provide satisfactory evidence of completing 2 years of full time equivalent post-secondary education in English in a subject other than practical nursing (only original transcripts are accepted).
  - a. If the completed education is a health-related occupation (such as Health Care Aide), the education requirement can be less than 2 years.
3. Provide satisfactory evidence that secondary school was completed in English, in any country (only original transcripts are accepted).
4. Provide satisfactory evidence of current nursing registration or registration that lapsed within the last 2 years in another Canadian jurisdiction where English language proficiency has been assessed by that jurisdiction as meeting the requirements of language proficiency.

5. Obtain a passing score for either the Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses or the International English Language Testing System (Academic Version only). Details about the tests are presented in the Appendix. 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.
6. Submit satisfactory evidence of providing health care services to patients in English in Canada. English language proficiency is considered valid for 2 years from the last date when the applicant provided health care services. This evidence would need to be verified by a regulated health provider or employer who works directly with the applicant.
7. Provide a letter, satisfactory to the Registrar, from an employer confirming English as the primary language used in practice – the letter should be from the current or most recent employer.

If you cannot meet any of the above requirements, please contact the CLPNA Registration Department to discuss your situation.

**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 language requirement in one of the manners described in the policy.

If after reading this policy you have any questions about the English language proficiency requirements, please contact the CLPNA at [registration@clpna.com](mailto:registration@clpna.com).



## Appendix

English Test	Passing Score	Contact to Write Test	Notes
<b>CELBAN- Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses</b>	Listening: 9 Reading: 8 Writing: 7 Speaking: 8	The CELBAN Centre  <a href="http://www.celbancentre.ca/Home.aspx">http://www.celbancentre.ca/Home.aspx</a>	It is recommended that applicants first complete a CELBAN readiness self-assessment test.
<b>IELTS- International English Language Testing System (Academic Version Only)</b>	Listening: 7.0 Reading: 6.5 Writing: 6.5 Speaking: 7.0	International English Language Testing System  Alberta: 1-403-543-7300  <a href="https://www.ielts.org/">https://www.ielts.org/</a>	It is recommended that applicants first complete a sample test.