

# English Language Proficiency (ELP) Policy

- Saskatchewan PN Student/Graduate Applicants
- Out-of-Province Applicants
- Canadian Degree or Diploma Nurses
- Internationally Educated Nurses

## Purpose

The objective of this policy is to provide applicants with information on the English language proficiency requirements set by the CLPNS Council.

## Policy

The CLPNS requires that applicants demonstrate English language proficiency, per the Regulatory Bylaws, which state:

*(2) All applicants for admission to membership as a licensed practical nurse or a graduate practical nurse must:*

*(b) meet the English language requirement set by the council.*

## Authority

[The Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2000](#)

[The CLPNS Regulatory Bylaws](#)

## Procedure

Applicants applying for membership with the CLPNS can demonstrate English language proficiency in one or more of the ways prescribed in this policy. The Registrar may consider a combination of factors as a demonstration of English language proficiency.

### **EDUCATION**

- The applicant graduated from a nursing education program in Canada, and the language of instruction, including the language used in any clinical, was English.
- The applicant completed a nursing education program outside of Canada where instruction in both theory and clinical practice was in English. Verification from the school may be requested.

## **REGISTRATION & LICENSURE STATUS**

- The applicant is currently registered or has been registered in the previous two years as a regulated nurse in another Canadian jurisdiction and has satisfied that jurisdiction’s English language proficiency requirements.

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

- The applicant provides evidence of safe practice within the last two years as a regulated nurse, where service was provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting and clients was English. Verification from the employer may be requested.

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING**

- The applicant may submit proof of achieving the required scores from one of the following language proficiency tests.

### **International English Language Testing System (IELTS).**

Accepted IELTS scores are:

Writing	6.5	Listening	7.0
Speaking	7.0	Reading	6.5
Overall Score			7.0

### **Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN).**

Accepted CELBAN scores are:

Writing	7	Listening	9
Speaking	8	Reading	8

- The required test score may be achieved over two writings.
- The scores are valid for two years from the date of testing. Applicants whose test scores expire during the application process may be required to repeat the test prior to being approved to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE) or become licensed with CLPNS.
- An official copy of the results must be submitted with the application for licensure.

**First issued:** February 2015

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**Previous versions:** February 2015, June 2017, August 2018, June 2021, March 2022, November 2022, December 2022

**Reviews:**

**Approved by:** CLPNS Council

**Responsible for review:** Registration & Licensure