

	English Language Proficiency POLICY
	Date Effective: March 23, 2020
	Revised: September 17, 2024; April 1, 2026
	Next Review Due: December, 2027

Background

The Regulated Health Professions Act indicates that an applicant must be reasonably proficient in written and spoken English to be eligible for registration. This is to ensure that an applicant, once registered, can safely and effectively communicate with clients and other members of the health care team.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe what evidence of English Language Proficiency will be acceptable to PEICNM.

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 Canadian applicants must have completed a nursing or midwifery program where English was the language of instruction for both theory and clinical. A written statement from the educational program may be required.
- 1.2 Online or distance education programs are not accepted as proof of proficiency.
- 1.3 Registration in another Canadian jurisdiction where the applicant has met that jurisdiction's English language requirement does fulfill PEICNM's English Language Proficiency requirement.
- 1.4 Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) must complete one of the following English language tests and achieve the following scores when English was not the language of instruction for their nursing education:

	IELTS ACADEMIC	CELBAN	OET	PTE ACADEMIC	TEF CANADA
Reading	6.5	8	C+	66	4
Listening	7.0	9	B	73	4
Writing	6.5	7	C+	68	4
Speaking	7.0	8	B	75	5

- 1.5 The applicant may demonstrate language proficiency by achieving the required minimum cut scores in the four areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking of one of the language proficiency tests above.
- 1.6 The applicant can achieve the required cut scores across two sittings if:
- 1.6.1 the applicant sits the same test within 6 months;
- 1.6.2 the applicant tested all four sections at the same time with the exception for tests that offer a one skill retake option;
- 1.6.3 all scores in both sittings are not below more than one band score level from the required cut scores; and
- 1.6.4 both sittings must have been completed within the last two (2) years.
- 1.7 If the applicant's test scores show significant fluctuations across the test sittings (i.e., more than two band scores), they should be carefully reviewed to ensure reliability and accuracy of the test scores.
- 1.8 The language test results expire two (2) years from the date of the language testing. English Language Proficiency Test results will expire two years from the date the test was completed. If the test results expire prior to registration, the application will be placed on hold until an updated test is received or proof that one of the other criteria has been met.
- 1.9 In lieu of an English Language Proficiency test, an applicant must provide proof of employment for a minimum of 24 months in a practice setting where English was the primary language used. A written statement from the employer is required.