

2020 Practical Nursing Program
PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM GUIDE SUPPLEMENT:
TEMPORARY BULLETIN: ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
ASSESSMENTS DURING COVID-19

This is a companion document to the
2011 Practical Nursing Program
PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM GUIDE & Supplement
2nd Edition Revised 2017



Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Introduction

This bulletin is a companion document to the 2011 Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide, 2nd Edition, Revised 2017 (Curriculum Guide) and the Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide Supplement: Program Core Standards and Teaching and Learning Resources, 2017 (Curriculum Guide Supplement). This companion document has been produced to refine, on a temporary basis, the English-language proficiency assessment requirements contained within the Curriculum Guide Supplement in response to the unprecedented situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. While this bulletin remains in place, institutions must continue to refer to the current versions of all documents listed in the revised Guide and Supplement.

Accepted Assessments

As a result of COVID-19, testing centres for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and the Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) have temporarily closed or are operating at a reduced capacity. As a result, students who require assessment results to demonstrate English-language proficiency are currently unable to satisfy the entrance requirements for PN programs laid out in the Curriculum Supplement (pg. 12-13).

Therefore, pursuant to the conditions laid out in this bulletin and for the duration that it remains in place, students who are unable to complete an IELTS or CELBAN assessment due to restrictions arising from COVID-19 may demonstrate English-language proficiency for the purpose of satisfying the entrance requirements for PN programs contained in the Curriculum Supplement by achieving the following scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test: Home Edition (TOEFL Home):

- Speaking: 23
- Listening: 27
- Reading: 19
- Writing: 27
- Overall Band Score: 96

In addition to meeting English language requirements for the Practical Nursing program, graduates must continue to be able to demonstrate a level of proficiency required to be performance ready as a condition for registration and practice in British Columbia. See BCCNM's website for details.

Conditions and Requirements

Acceptance of the TOEFL Home assessment is subject to the following conditions.

Post-secondary institutions seeking to accept the TOEFL Home assessment must demonstrate:

1. Compliance with the Curriculum Guide and Supplement at the most recent British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) Education Program Review (EPR).
2. Evidence of comprehensive and established policies and processes for assessing and adjudicating student admissions.
3. Evidence of supports available at the institution to facilitate students' success.
4. Evidence of established, ongoing and detailed record keeping of English-language proficiency assessments for all students requiring such an assessment, including:
 - a. Date of assessment
 - b. Assessment used (i.e. IELTS, CELBAN, TOEFL Home)
 - c. Overall score achieved
 - d. Score achieved on each language skill (i.e. Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing)

Before any student may be admitted using the TOEFL Home assessment as proof of English-language proficiency institutions must present prior, written notice to the BCCNM Education Program Review Committee providing sufficient evidence of compliance with the conditions listed above, to the satisfaction and acceptance of the BCCNM as evidenced in writing. Contact educationprogramreview@bccnm.ca.