

2023 Temporary Bulletin: English-Language Proficiency Assessment Requirements

Practical Nursing Program Provincial
Curriculum Guide Supplement



Ministry of
Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills

Introduction

This bulletin is a companion document to the 2011 Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide, 2nd Edition, revised in 2017 (Curriculum Guide), and the Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide Supplement: Program Core Standards and Teaching and Learning Resources, 2017 (Curriculum Guide Supplement). The intent of this document is to refine the English-language proficiency assessment requirements in the Curriculum Guide Supplement to align with updated British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives standards.

While this bulletin remains in place, institutions must refer to the current versions of all documents listed in the revised guide and supplement. This bulletin will remain in place until publication of the next Curriculum Guide and Curriculum Guide Supplement.

Updated Language Proficiency Test Benchmarks

In addition to meeting English language requirements for the Practical Nursing program, graduates must demonstrate a level of proficiency required to be performance ready as a condition for registration and practice in B.C.

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives recently updated its language proficiency test benchmarks to align with Canadian Nurse Regulators Collaborative standards. Updated minimum language proficiency levels required for registration reflect the language demands expected of internationally educated entry-level candidates to practice in Canada.

Students who complete an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or CELBAN assessment to demonstrate English-language proficiency for the Practical Nursing program in the Curriculum Supplement must meet the following minimum scores:

| Area of Proficiency | IELTS Academic | CELBAN |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|
| Reading | 6.5 | 8 |
| Listening | 7.0 | 9 |
| Writing | 6.5 | 7 |
| Speaking | 7.0 | 8 |
| Overall | 7.0 | |