



The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.

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Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.



1. I graduated from an Entry-to-practice nursing program one of the seven countries eligible for expedited licensure. Am I required to submit evidence that I have met the English language proficiency registration requirement?

No. Your education in one of these seven countries means you have met the English language registration requirement.

2. I am currently registered as registered nurse in one of the designated countries, but I was educated in a non-designated country. Am I required to meet the English language registration requirement?

Every nurse is required to meet the English language regulation requirement. Some nurses do this because they are licensed in a country where they practice in English. Others, who do not practice primarily in English may be required to submit evidence that they meet the English language registration requirement.

If you were required to meet an English language requirement to get licensed in the designated country, you are not required to provide further evidence to NSCN. If not, you will need to show that you have met the English language registration requirement. For example, the USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand require you to demonstrate English language proficiency prior to licensure with them.

3. How can I meet the English language registration requirements for NSCN?

You can meet the EL proficiency requirement in the following ways:

1. **Entry to Practice Nursing Education:** Graduate from an entry to practice nursing education program where the theory and clinical experiences were provided in English in any country.
2. **Testing:** Meet the required minimum test scores on one of the NSCN approved English language proficiency tests [Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses \(CELBAN\)](#), the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\) \(Academic Only\)](#), [Occupational English Test \(OET\)](#) or the [Pearson \(PTE\) Academic](#). Information about the test and required scores are available on our website [here](#).
3. **Practice:** Current or previous registration/licensure to practice as a regulated health professional in a jurisdiction where health care services are provided in English, in any country.
4. **Nursing (or Non-nursing) Education:** Complete post-entry nursing (or non-nursing) education in English, in any country.
5. **Employer Assessment:** Submit an [Employer Confirmation of English Language Proficiency form](#) based on recent work (within the past 24 months) in a healthcare setting.

*Reasonably recent expired CELBAN, OET or IELTS scores may be used to determine English proficiency. We may also consider combining two CELBAN, OET or IELTS Academic test scores as long as the tests were completed reasonably close together.

4. My English language proficiency test scores have expired or did not quite meet the benchmark. What can I do?

We will work with those who have expired scores or scores close to the minimum, to find an appropriate pathway to registration and licensure. We encourage you to submit all information you think may be helpful to our decision-making process.

5. I have completed a number of nursing courses while working on my registration. Can I use these to meet the English language requirement?

We recognize the value of continuing education. Without assessing the nature, type, and comprehensiveness of the continuing education, it is not possible to say that every continuing education program will help you meet the requirement. When we assess continuing education, we will consider the length the course, the requirement for passing a structure or supervised test or exam and whether there was any clinical component to the courses.

Again, we encourage you to submit any information you think may be helpful to our decision-making process.

6. I have been working in Nova Scotia as a CCA. Will you consider this experience towards meeting the English language requirement?

Yes. Recent practice as a healthcare provider conducted in English can be used to meet the English language requirement. We require your employer to submit an [Employer Confirmation of English Language Proficiency form](#) for review.