

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND NURSING PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED  
PRACTICAL NURSES**

**A. Graduates from schools of practical nursing outside of Canada applying for initial registration in Nova Scotia. These graduates are licensing in Canada for the first time.**

1. Applicants are to have completed a practical nursing program or equivalent, conducted by an approved School of Practical Nursing.
2. The practical nursing program is to have included:
  - a) theory and clinical experience in medical, surgical, obstetrical nursing, nursing of children, and psychiatric nursing;
  - b) a minimum of 500 hours of theory and 1000 clinical practice hours.
3. Effective January 1, 2011, applicants whose first language is **NOT** English are required to provide evidence of English Language fluency. Acceptable language tests to demonstrate this are noted below:

<b>Test</b>	<b>Minimum Passing Score</b>
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) ( <a href="http://www.ielts.org">www.ielts.org</a> )	Overall band score 7.5 with a speaking band score of 7.5 on the academic test
CELBAN (Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses) ( <a href="http://www.celban.org">www.celban.org</a> )	Speaking-CLB Level 8 Listening-CLB Level 10 Reading-CLB Level 8 Writing-CLB Level 7 Overall: N/A

Applicants who meet the required theoretical and clinical requirements are required to write the *Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE)*, achieving the passing score.

**B. Graduates from schools of practical nursing or equivalent outside of Canada, unable to provide evidence of their nursing program and/or status in their own country, will be required to:**

1. Provide a notarized statement which includes the:
  - Name used by the applicant when enrolled in the program
  - Name and location of school of nursing
  - Length of the program
  - Date of entrance and completion of the program
  - List of theory and clinical courses, with number of classes and clinical hours.

2. Nursing programs must have included:
  - a) theory and clinical experience at the general practical nurse level in medical surgical nursing, obstetrical/maternal nursing, nursing of children and, psychiatric/mental health nursing.
  - b) a minimum of 500 hours of theory and 1000 clinical practice hours.
3. Provide evidence of English language fluency.
4. Applicants who meet the theoretical and clinical requirements are required to write the *Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE)*, achieving the passing score.
5. Applicants who do not meet the theory and clinical hours requirement will be contacted by Registration regarding a competency assessment.
6. Applicants may be eligible for a PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment Recognition) at the Nova Scotia Community College.

For more information on registration requirements for graduates from outside of Canada contact:

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia  
Suite 1212, 2000 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3K1  
Tel: 902-423-8517, Toll-free (NS) 1-800-718-8517  
Fax: 902-425-6811  
Email: [info@clpnns.ca](mailto:info@clpnns.ca)

For more information about the PLAR program and assessments contact:

Karen Sigouin, Practical Nursing Program Manager  
Nova Scotia Community College  
Tel: (902) 491-4717      Email: [karen.sigouin@nscc.ca](mailto:karen.sigouin@nscc.ca)