



English Proficiency Policy

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A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for patient safety. To treat all applicants fairly, the nursing program has written guidelines to determine English proficiency for applicants for whom English is not their only native language (including international and/or U.S. residents) or who have not attended 4 years of U.S. high school and achieved a HS GPA of 3.0 or higher. These applicants must meet additional language proficiency requirements for admission to the Dakota Nursing program. These requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission.

English proficiency is required for two reasons:

- The nursing program has a high level of rigor requiring good English language proficiency to be successful.
- The program's purpose is to prepare students to practice safely and effectively in health care systems, good English language proficiency is required for critical communication needed in these complex settings.

Applicants will meet English proficiency requirements by:

- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam or the Duolingo English Test (DET) exam are considered the two Dakota Nursing Program English Proficiency Exams.
- If the student has taken another NDUS approved English Proficiency Exam, that exam may be considered. The exams are to be taken within the required time limits and the scores will correlate to the TOEFL and Duolingo scores noted in the exam information below.

1. **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Information and Scores for Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program**

To be considered for admission to the pre-licensure program, English as a second language (ESL) applicants must achieve minimum scores on the TOEFL internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) of:

Minimum Cumulative Score of:

- 86 Combined

In achieving the cumulative score of 86, it is expected that the applicant reaches a minimum individual score (maximum variation of 2 points may be allowed as determined by the admission and progression committee) of:

- 26 in Speaking
- 20 in Writing
- 20 in Reading
- 20 in Listening



- a. Complete information on the TOEFL iBT, including free test preparation materials, testing sites, and registration is available online at <https://www.ets.org/toefl.html>. Applicants may register for the TOEFL iBT by Internet, telephone (1-800-468-6335) or mail.
- b. Request official TOEFL iBT scores to be sent to:
 - Bismarck State College — Enter Institution DI Code: 6041
 - Dakota College at Bottineau - Enter Institution DI 3398.
 - Lake Region State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6163
 - Williston State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6905
- c. Only official score reports will be accepted. TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the test date.
- d. The cost of any/all required testing is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
- e. Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TOEFL exam with a minimum of 12 days between attempts per application period.

2. Duolingo English Test (DET) Information and Scores for Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program

Minimum Overall Score of:

- 115

It is expected that the applicant reaches a content score (variation as determined by the admission and progression committee) of 90 in the following four areas:

- Literacy (Reading)
- Comprehension (Listening)
- Conversation (Speaking)
- Production (Writing)

Test Preparation and Registration

- a. Complete the registration process at <https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants>
- b. Request score be sent to your college. (BSC, DCB, LRSC, WSC)
- c. Only official score reports will be accepted. DET scores are valid for two years from the test date.
- d. The cost of any/all required testing is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
- e. Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the DET with a minimum of 30 days between attempts per application period.

Additional information related to English proficiency

Nursing students for whom English is not their native language should be aware that they may not be able to complete the program of study within the described time frame. Students are encouraged to consult the nursing advisor before submitting the nursing program application. This gives the opportunity to discuss requirements and arrange to either take the English proficiency exam (TOEFL or DET) if applicable or seek assistance to be successful on the English proficiency exam in the future.

Support for students in English language learning can be found at their campus in the following department.

- BSC – Adult Learning Center 701-323-4530



- DCB – Academic Support 701-228-5425
- LRSC – Adult Learning Center 701-662-1568
- WSC – Adult Learning Center 701-774-6223

ESL nursing students who have met the English proficiency requirements but who have difficulty in the nursing program are encouraged to meet with an advisor on a regular basis during their program of study concerning their progression. The goal is to increase the probability of success in the program and on the licensing examination.

References:

A Minimum English Proficiency Standard for The Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) (2009).

<https://www.ncsbn.org/publications/a-minimum-english-proficiency-standard-for-the-test-of-english-as-a-foreign-language-internetbased-test-toefl-ibt>

Duolingo and TOEFL score comparisons

<https://englishtest.duolingo.com/scores>

<https://www.toeflresources.com/blog/duolingo-score-conversion-charts-toefl-ielts-cefr-have-changed/>

<https://tstprep.com/articles/det/duolingo-english-test-vs-the-toefl-ibt/>