

English Proficiency Policy

Orig.2012, rev.11/16

A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for patient safety. In addition to general college English proficiency requirements, all applicants for whom English is not their 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 must meet additional language proficiency requirements for admission to the Dakota Nursing Program. These requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission.

Minimum TOEFL 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

AND Minimum Individual Scores of:

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

Test Preparation and Registration

- 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>. 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 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.

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 to make arrangements to either take the TOEFL exam if applicable or seek assistance to be successful on the TOEFL exam in the future.

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.

Reference:

A Minimum English Proficiency Standard for The Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) (2009). Retrieved July 12th, 2015 at https://www.ncsbn.org/TOEFL_iBT_Proficiency_Standard_Process.pdf