

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Susan Detmer, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 17, 2021

SUBJECT: **Changes to Admissions Qualifications – College of Nursing English Proficiency**

DECISIONS REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That the Council approve the changes to the minimum standard of English proficiency for applicants to the College of Nursing, effective the 2022-23 admissions cycle.

PURPOSE:

University Council has the authority to approve changes to admissions requirements degree-level programs. Senate confirmation is required for such changes.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The College of Nursing proposes to change its English Language Requirements to ensure that students entering the program have the required English proficiency for admissions to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs. The change will impact the mechanism for demonstrating English proficiency through prior study at an institution where English is the official language of instruction and moves from a citizenship-based assessment of proficiency to a high-school curriculum based assessment. The minimum required scores on these standardized tests of English proficiency remain unchanged.

CONSULTATION:

The academic programs committee reviewed the proposal for this program at its May 26, 2021 meeting. The committee recognized the need for strong English language competency to be successful in undergraduate programs in Nursing.

FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:

University Senate will be asked to confirm Council's approval of this change at its next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. **Proposal for a change to the English Language Requirements for admission to the College of Nursing.**

Motion: To accept the changes to the College of Nursing English Language requirements and proof of English proficiency admission policy as outlined.

Current Policy

English Language Requirements

The language of instruction at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) College of Nursing is English. A high level understanding and functionality in English is essential for safe client care in health professions in Saskatchewan. Applicants whose primary language is not English must present evidence of proficiency in English, regardless of country's official language.

Primary language shall be defined as the language you learned at home in childhood or the language which you identify as knowing best and being most comfortable with and is the language primarily used for reading, writing, listening and speaking.

If you are **not** a citizen of one of the countries listed below, you must write and successfully pass an English proficiency examination, regardless of what your primary language is:

- Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Canada, England, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States, US Virgin Islands, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The following examination scores serve as evidence of English language proficiency. Prospective students should note the minimum requirements that must be attained for admission to nursing programs at the U of S.

Prior attendance at a Canadian high school or having 18 transferrable credit units from an English speaking/testing institution are not adequate evidence of English language proficiency.

Minimum Requirements

- Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL - IBT)*
 - Overall Score - 90
 - Reading - 20
 - Writing - 20
 - Speaking - 26

- Listening - 22
*Note: Paper based test is not accepted.
- International English Language (IELTS)
 - Academic Module - 7.0
 - Speaking Component - 7.0
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL)
 - Overall Band Score - 70
 - Reading - 60
 - Listening - 60
 - Writing - 60
 - Speaking - 70
- Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)
 - Speaking - 5.0
 - Listening - 4.5
 - Reading - 4.5
 - Writing - 4.5

Proposed Changes

The language of instruction at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) College of Nursing is English. A high level understanding and functionality in English is essential for safe client care in health professions in Saskatchewan. For students to understand, communicate and be successful in programs at the university, an acceptable level of academic English is required. You may be asked to provide proof of English proficiency.

Proof of English Proficiency

If you have been asked to provide proof of your English proficiency, you can do so in the following ways:

1. Completion of high school and post-secondary studies in English

At least 3 years of full-time study in an approved English-medium secondary program including Grades 10, 11, and 12. ¹

AND

At least 24 CU of the prerequisite nursing courses must be from a recognized post-secondary institution where English* is the official language of instruction and examination.¹

**The post-secondary institution must declare English to be the only language of instruction and examination throughout the institution, not just in select departments.*

¹ If secondary or post-secondary study occurred more than five years ago, additional proof of English proficiency may be required.

The following English Language Curriculums would be considered acceptable at the high school level:

- Canadian English-medium schools
- Overseas schools offering a Canadian education system curriculum in English
- US regionally-accredited English medium schools
- International Baccalaureate Programme
- India – IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) and CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) only
- GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) O (Ordinary) Level & GCE (General Certificate of Education) A (Advanced) Levels
- NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority)
- Australian State Curriculums
- CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations)
- SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority)
- NQAI (National Qualifications Authority of Ireland)
- WBQ (Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification)

Students who have not followed one of these secondary level curriculums, will be required to provide another form of proof of English proficiency. This list will be updated annually as required.

2. Completion of an accepted standardized test

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST	Minimum Score required for College of Nursing
TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language)	90
<i>Reading</i>	20
<i>Listening</i>	22
<i>Speaking</i>	26
<i>Writing</i>	20
IELTS (International English Language Testing System)	7
<i>Reading</i>	-
<i>Listening</i>	-
<i>Speaking</i>	7
<i>Writing</i>	-
CAEL (Canadian Academic English Language Assessment)	70
<i>Reading</i>	60
<i>Listening</i>	60
<i>Speaking</i>	70
<i>Writing</i>	60
CanTEST (The Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees)	
<i>Reading</i>	4.5
<i>Listening</i>	4.5
<i>Speaking</i>	5
<i>Writing</i>	4.5

Rationale for changes

These changes align more closely with the University of Saskatchewan English language proficiency requirements for general admission.

In 2015, the University stopped using citizenship of certain countries as proof of English language proficiency. Instead, they moved to a model that accepts approved high school studies in English, or completion of post-secondary studies in English where the official language of instruction and examination is English. High school and post-secondary transcripts are used to determine English proficiency.

Students in The College of Nursing require a high level of English competency and therefore both high school and a full year of post-secondary studies will be required. Prospective students, who do not meet these requirements, will be required to complete an accepted standardized English proficiency test.

Consultation with the Registrar Form

This form is to be completed by the Registrar (or his/her designate) during an in-person consultation with the faculty member responsible for the proposal. Please consider the questions on this form prior to the meeting.

Section 1: New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information or Renaming of Existing

1 Is this a new degree, diploma, or certificate?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is an existing degree, diploma, or certificate being renamed?

If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 What is the name of the new degree, diploma, or certificate?

3 What is the credential of this new degree, diploma, or certificate? [Example - D.M.D. = Doctor of Dental Medicine]

4 If you have renamed an existing degree, diploma, or certificate, what is the current name?

5 Does this new or renamed degree / diploma / certificate require completion of degree level courses or non-degree level courses, thus implying the attainment of either a degree level or non-degree level standard of achievement?

6 If this is a new degree level certificate, can a student take it at the same time as pursuing another degree level program?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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7 If YES, a student attribute will be created and used to track students who are in this certificate alongside another program. The attribute code will be:

8 Which College is responsible for the awarding of this degree, diploma, or certificate?

9 Is there more than one program to fulfill the requirements for this degree, diploma, or certificate? If yes, please list these programs.

10 Are there any new majors, minors, or concentrations associated with this new degree / diploma / certificate? Please list the name(s) and whether it is a major, minor, or concentration, along with the sponsoring department.

One major is required on all programs [4 characters for code and 30 characters for description]

11 If this is a new graduate degree, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?

Section 2: New / Revised Program for Existing or New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information

1 Is this a new program?

Yes No

Is an existing program being revised?

Yes No

If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what degree, diploma, or certificate does this new/revised program meet requirements for?

3 What is the name of this new/revised program?

4 What other program(s) currently exist that will also meet the requirements for this same degree(s)?

5 What College/Department is the academic authority for this program?

6 Is this a replacement for a current program?

Yes No

7 If YES, will students in the current program complete that program or be grandfathered?

8 If this is a new graduate program, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?

9 If this is a new non-degree or undergraduate level program, what is the expected completion time?

Section 3: Mobility

Mobility is the ability to move freely from one jurisdiction to another and to gain entry into an academic institution or to participate in a learning experience without undue obstacles or hindrances.

1 Does the proposed degree, program, major, minor, concentration, or course involve mobility?

Yes No

If yes, choose one of the following?

Domestic Mobility (both jurisdictions are within Canada)

International Mobility (one jurisdiction is outside of Canada)

2 Please indicate the mobility type (refer to Nomenclature for definitions).

Joint Program

Joint Degree

Dual Degree

Professional Internship Program

Faculty-Led Course Abroad

Term Abroad Program

3 The U of S enters into partnerships or agreements with external partners for the above mobility types in order to allow students collaborative opportunities for research, studies, or activities. Has an agreement been signed?

Yes No

4 Please state the full name of the agreement that the U of S is entering into.

5 What is the name of the external partner?

6 What is the jurisdiction for the external partner?

Section 4: New / Revised Major, Minor, or Concentration for Existing Degree Information (Undergraduate)

1 Is this a new or revised major, minor, or concentration attached to an existing degree program?

Yes No Revised

If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, please specify whether it is a major, minor, or concentration. If it is more than one, please fill out a separate form for each.

3 What is the name of this new / revised major, minor, or concentration?

4 Which department is the authority for this major, minor, or concentration? If this is a cross-College relationship, please state the Jurisdictional College and the Adopting College.

5 Which current program(s), degree(s), and/or program type(s) is this new / revised major, minor, or concentration attached to?

Section 5: New / Revised Disciplinary Area for Existing Degree Information (Graduate)

1 Is this a new or revised disciplinary area attached to an existing graduate degree program?

Yes No Revised

If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what is the name of this new / revised disciplinary area?

3 Which Department / School is the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area? (NOTE - if this disciplinary area is being offered by multiple departments see question below.)

4 Which **multiple** Departments / Schools are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area?

4a Of the **multiple** Departments / Schools who are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area and what allocation percentage is assigned to each? (Note - must be whole numbers and must equal 100.)

4b Of the **multiple** Departments / Schools who is the primary department? The primary department specifies which department / school policies will be followed in academic matters (ex. late adds, re-read policies, or academic misconduct). If no department / school is considered the primary, please indicate that. (In normal circumstances, a department / school with a greater percentage of responsibility - see question above - will be designated the primary department.)

5 Which current program(s) and / or degree(s) is this new / revised disciplinary area attached to?

Section 6: New College / School / Center / Department or Renaming of Existing

1 Is this a new college, school, center, or department?

Is an existing college, school, center, or department being renamed?

Is an existing college, school, center, or department being deleted?

If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 What is the name of the new (or renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department?

3 If you have renamed an existing college, school, center, or department, what is the current name?

4 What is the effective term of this new (renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department?

5 Will any programs be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled?

6 Will any courses be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled?

7 Are there any ceremonial consequences for Convocation (ie. New degree hood, adjustment to parchments, etc.)?

Section 7: Course Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Is there a new subject area(s) of course offering proposed for this new degree? If so, what is the subject area(s) and the suggested four (4) character abbreviation(s) to be used in course listings?

2 If there is a new subject area(s) of offerings what College / Department is the academic authority for this new subject area?

3 Have the subject area identifier and course number(s) for new and revised courses been cleared by the Registrar?

4 Does the program timetable use standard class time slots, terms, and sessions?

Yes No

If NO, please describe.

5 Does this program, due to pedagogical reasons, require any special space or type or rooms?

Yes No

If YES, please describe.

NOTE: Please remember to submit a new "Course Creation Form" for every new course required for this new program / major. Attached completed "Course Creation Forms" to this document would be helpful.

Section 8: Admissions, Recruitment, and Quota Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP OTHER THAN NOTED**NOTE: This change is for the Bachelor of Sc Nursing (BSN) Program**

1 Will students apply on-line? If not, how will they apply?

2 What term(s) can students be admitted to?

3 What is the application deadline for each term(s) students can be admitted to?

4 For undergraduate programs, will students be admitted to one of the approved majors or an undeclared major?

5 For undergraduate programs, if there's more than one degree proposed (ex. 3Y and 4Y), which program/degree will students be admitted to?

6 Does this impact enrollment?

7 How should Marketing and Student Recruitment handle initial inquiries about this proposal before official approval?

8 Can classes towards this program be taken at the same time as another program?

9 What is the application deadline?

10 What are the admission qualifications? (IE. High school transcript required, grade 12 standing, minimum average, any required courses, etc.)

English Proficiency Requirement Update:

- Citizenship of specified countries is not used as proof of English proficiency any longer - this change is to align with the overall University of Saskatchewan policy, adopted in 2015
- Students now must have completed high school studies in English (grades, 10,11 and 12); AND minimally 24 CU of post-secondary studies in English where the official language of instruction and examination is English - high school and post-secondary transcripts are required to determine this.

11 What is the selection criteria? (IE. If only average then 100% weighting; if other factors such as interview, essay, etc. what is the weighting of each of these in the admission decision.)

12 What are the admission categories and admit types? (IE. High school students and transfer students or one group? Special admission? Aboriginal equity program?)

13 What is the application process? (IE. Online application and supplemental information (required checklist items) through the Admissions Office or sent to the College/Department?)

14 Who makes the admission decision? (IE. Admissions Office or College/Department/Other?)

15 Letter of acceptance - are there any special requirements for communication to newly admitted students?

16 Will the standard application fee apply?

17 Will all applicants be charged the fee or will current, active students be exempt?

18 Are international students admissible to this program?

Yes No

If YES, what is the tuition amount for the first 12 months for a full-time international student? This information is required for the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [IRCC] form (this form is for students who need to get a visa to study here).

Section 9: Government Loan Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

NOTE: Federal / provincial government loan programs require students to be full-time in order to be eligible for funding. The University of Saskatchewan defines full-time as enrollment in a minimum of 9 credit units (operational) in the fall and/or winter term(s) depending on the length of the loan.

1 If this is a change to an existing program, will the program change have any impact on student loan eligibility?

2 If this is a new program, do you intend that students be eligible for student loans?

Section 10: Convocation Information (only for new degrees) - NOT APPLICABLE

1 Are there any 'ceremonial consequences' of this proposal (ie. New degree hood, special convocation, etc.)?

2 If YES, has the Office of the University Secretary been notified?

3 When is the first class expected to graduate?

4

What is the maximum number of students you anticipate/project will graduate per year (please consider the next 5-10 years)?

Section 11: Schedule of Implementation Information

1 What is the start term?

202205 (May 2022)

2 Are students required to do anything prior to the above date (in addition to applying for admission)?

Yes No

If YES, what and by what date?

Section 12: Registration Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 What year in program is appropriate for this program (NA or a numeric year)?

(General rule = NA for programs and categories of students not working toward a degree level qualification; undergraduate degree level certificates will use numeric year.)

2 Will students register themselves?

Yes No

If YES, what priority group should they be in?

Section 13: Academic History Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will instructors submit grades through self-serve?

Yes No

2 Who will approve grades (Department Head, Assistant Dean, etc.)?

Section 14: T2202 Information (tax form) - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Should classes count towards T2202s?

Yes No

Section 15: Awards Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will terms of reference for existing awards need to be amended?

Yes No

2 If this is a new undergraduate program, will students in this program be eligible for College-specific awards?

Section 16: Government of Saskatchewan Graduate Retention (Tax) Program - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will this program qualify for the Government of Saskatchewan graduate retention (tax) program?

Yes No

To qualify the program must meet the following requirements:

- be equivalent to at least 6 months of full-time study, and
- result in a certificate, diploma, or undergraduate degree.

Section 17: Program Termination

1 Is this a program termination? Yes No

If yes, what is the name of the program?

2 What is the effective date of this termination?

3 Will there be any courses closed as a result of this termination? Yes No

If yes, what courses?

4 Are there currently any students enrolled in the program? Yes No

If yes, will they be able to complete the program?

5 If not, what alternate arrangements are being made for these students?

6 When do you expect the last student to complete this program?

7 Is there mobility associated with this program termination? Yes No

If yes, please select one of the following mobility activity types.

Dual Degree Program

Joint Degree Program

Internship Abroad Program

Term Abroad Program

Taught Abroad Course

Student Exchange Program

Partnership agreements, coordinated by the International Office, are signed for these types of mobility activities. Has the International Office been informed of this program termination?

Yes No

Section 18: Proposed Tuition and Student Fees Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 How will tuition be assessed?

- Standard Undergraduate per credit
- Standard Graduate per credit
- Standard Graduate per term
- Non standard per credit*
- Non standard per term*
- Other *
- Program Based*

* See attached documents for further details

2 If fees are per credit, do they conform to existing categories for per credit tuition? If YES, what category or rate?

3 If program based tuition, how will it be assessed? By credit unit? By term? Elsehow?

4 Does proponent's proposal contain detailed information regarding requested tuition?

Yes No

If NO, please describe.

5 What is IPA's recommendation regarding tuition assessment? When is it expected to receive approval?

6 IPA Additional comments?

7 Will students outside the program be allowed to take the classes?

8 If YES, what should they be assessed? (This is especially important for program based.)

9 Do standard student fee assessment criteria apply (full-time, part-time, on-campus versus off-campus)?

10 Do standard cancellation fee rules apply?

11 Are there any additional fees (e.g. materials, excursion)? If yes, see NOTE below.

12 Are you moving from one tuition code (TC) to another tuition code?

Yes No

If YES, from which tuition code to which tuition code?

13 Are international students admissible to the program? If yes, will they pay the international tuition differential?

NOTE: Please remember to submit a completed "Application for New Fee or Fee Change Form" for every new course with additional fees.

Section 19: TLSE - Information Dissemination (internal for TLSE use only)

- 1 Has TLSE, Marketing and Student Recruitment, been informed about this new / revised program? Yes No
- 2 Has TLSE, Admissions, been informed about this new / revised program? Yes No
- 3 Has TLSE, Student Finance and Awards, been informed about this new / revised program? Yes No
- 4 Has CGPS been informed about this new / revised program? Yes No
- 5 Has TLSE, Transfer Credit, been informed about any new / revised courses? Yes No
- 6 Has ICT-Data Services been informed about this new or revised degree / program / major / minor / concentration? Yes No
- 7 Has the Library been informed about this new / revised program? Yes No
- 8 Has ISA been informed of the CIP code for new degree / program / major? Yes No
- 9 Has Room Scheduling/Scheduling Hub/Senior Coordinator of Scheduling been informed of unique space requirements for the new courses and/or informed of program, course, college, and department changes? Yes No
- 10 Has the Convocation Coordinator been notified of a new degree? Yes No
- 11 What is the highest level of financial approval required for this submission? Check all that apply.
 - a. None - as it has no financial implications
 - OR
 - b. Fee Review Committee
 - c. Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA)
 - d. Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)
 - e. Board of Governors
 - f. Other

SIGNED

Date:

Registrar (Russell Isinger):

College Representative(s):

IPA Representative(s):