

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF NURSING

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

TITLE OF POLICY: VERIFICATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY FOR STUDENTS CLASSIFIED AS
FOREIGN STUDENTS

ORIGINAL DATE: MAY 4, 1998

LAST REVIEWED/REVISED: MARCH 2009

POLICY: All students admitted to the School of Nursing must have the required proficiency in English to successfully undertake the course of study. Applicants who do not meet the required standards will not be offered admission. Assessment that an applicant has the minimum required proficiency **may** be based on one of the following:

- The applicant is a citizen of a country whose official language is English.
- The applicant has provided a minimum official score on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of 550 [213 on the Computer-based test (CBT); 80 on the Internet-based test (iBT)].
- The applicant has provided a minimum overall band score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with a speaking band score of 7.0 or higher.
- The applicant has completed a degree program at a regionally accredited institution in the United States.

Admitted students are required to verify their English language proficiency upon arrival on campus and prior to registration. Students with a TOEFL above 600 (250 on the CBT or 80 on the iBT) or above BAND 7.0 on the IELTS may be exempted from taking an additional test of English language proficiency administered by the English Language Institute (ELI). Those admitted students with a TOEFL score of less than 100 on the iBT, 600 on the PBT, 250 on the CBT, or less than Band 7.0 on the IELTS must take an additional test of English language proficiency administered by the ELI. International students may be required by their academic department or school to complete all remedial work recommended by ELI on the basis of the additional test of English language proficiency. .

The School of Nursing reserves the right, even after arrival and enrollment, to make individual curricular adjustments whenever particular deficiencies or needs of a student are identified. In such instances, students may be required to take, at their own expense and without receiving credit, courses in English as a foreign language or courses prerequisite to their course of study in order to make up deficiencies.

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- PROCEDURE:**
1. Undergraduate: International applicants to the prelicensure program apply through the Office of International Services using the International Undergraduate Application. Upon receipt of an Assessment of English Language Proficiency with the signature of the admissions officer, OIS will certify to the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, as part of the certification of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Visa (Form I-20) or for Exchange-Visitor Visa (Form DS-2019), that the student has the required level of English language proficiency.
 2. RN Options Program and the Graduate Programs: The School of Nursing will provide information about the English language proficiency requirements in the application materials. No admission decisions will be made until the required test results are submitted or the applicant is exempted from that requirement.
 3. Upon receipt of all relevant application materials and test scores, the Student Services Office will assess whether the international applicant has the required level of English language proficiency. If the applicant has met the requirements, then an admission decision may be made.
 4. Graduate Students: With an offer of admission, the letter of admission must ask the student to accept or decline the offer of admission and obtain, complete, and submit the International Graduate Student Supplemental Application Packet.
 5. Following receipt of the admitted student's acceptance form and the International Graduate Student Supplemental Application Packet, a copy of the admission letter, the form indicating the applicant's acceptance of that admission, the completed International Graduate Student Supplemental Application Packet, and a completed Form 0131, Assessment of English Language Proficiency for Admission are sent to OIS. Form 0131 will indicate that the international student has the level of English language proficiency necessary to successfully undertake the proposed course of study or that the student is required to sit for an additional test of English language proficiency administered by the ELI as part of the registration.

Those admitted students with a TOEFL score of less than 100 on the iBT, 600 on the PBT, 250 on the CBT, or less than Band 7.0 on the

IELTS must take an additional test of English language proficiency administered by the ELI.

6. OIS will communicate to the student information regarding dates and times of the additional test of English language proficiency administered by the ELI and will distribute tickets for admission to the test site on the scheduled date of test administration. Following administration of the additional test of English language proficiency, the English Language Institute will send the scores to the Student Services Office, and that office will send the information on to the program faculty.
7. Each international student should meet with his/her academic advisor to discuss the results of the additional test of English language proficiency and the English Language Institute recommendations. There are four general types of recommendations: (a) no additional English work required; (b) support workshops and services without academic credit attached; (c) academic courses in Linguistics level English courses as part of the student's registration; or (d) no academic courses permitted until an intensive program in English Language skills is completed successfully. Students may choose to incorporate English language support workshops into their schedules if they desire. When the additional test of English language proficiency results require the student to complete academic courses, those courses will be required in addition to, or instead of, courses in the curriculum of the school of nursing.

Reviewed: 03-04, 08-09
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