



# Language Proficiency Policy

## A Policy for Applicants for Registration

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This policy describes how applicants for registration with NSRP demonstrate proficiency in the English language, as required by the Psychology Regulations made under the Regulated Health Professions Act.

## Regulatory Basis

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Under the *Psychology Regulations* made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, an applicant for registration must have demonstrated proficiency in the English language, in the manner prescribed by the Registrar (s. 10(2)(a)(v); applied to applicants for a practising licence by s. 11(1)(a)(i)).

## How Proficiency is Assessed

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Language proficiency is assessed by the Registrar on the basis of the application package. Where the package does not include language proficiency test results meeting the minimum scores set out below, the applicant may be required to demonstrate proficiency through one of the following means:

## Means of Demonstrating Proficiency

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1. Providing documentary evidence in the form of a transcript sent directly from the university to the Registrar, or providing a written statement to the Registrar that such information was provided by the university when the applicant applied through the ACPRO Portal. The transcript must indicate that the applicant completed their highest-level psychology degree in: Canada; the United States of America; the United Kingdom; the Republic of Ireland; Australia; or New Zealand; or
2. Providing verification in the form of a signed letter sent directly from the educational institution where the applicant's psychology degree was completed to the Registrar, confirming that the language of instruction, supervision and clinical practice was entirely in English. This may be provided as an original hard-copy document, fax, or PDF; or

3. Providing a report, sent directly from the language testing agency to the Registrar (as an original hard-copy document, PDF, or fax), confirming that the applicant has achieved the minimum scores indicated on one of the standardized English-language fluency tests approved by the Regulator. The applicant must meet the minimum score in each area of one test, and test results are considered valid for two years from the date the test was administered.

### Approved Tests and Minimum Scores

Test	Writing	Speaking	Listening	Reading
TOEFL internet-based test (iBT)	27	24	24	24
IELTS (Academic)	7	7	7	7
CanTEST	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

4. Providing the Registrar with other compelling evidence of language fluency. This could include, for example, evidence that the applicant was registered and practised in an English-language practice environment for a minimum of the equivalent of two years full-time, which may be confirmed through proof of registration sent directly from the psychology regulatory body, letter(s) from employer(s) or supervisor(s), or similar documentation. All such documentation must be sent directly to the Registrar as an original hard-copy document, PDF, or fax.
5. An applicant may be exempted from the requirement if they cannot meet it through the means described in items 1, 2, or 4 above and have a documented disability (see Footnote 1) that would affect their ability to meet the requirement by completing a standardized language fluency test as described in item 3. Such exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Registration and Licensing Committee.

### Footnote 1: Definition of Disability

The *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act* defines “disability” as:

- (l) “physical disability or mental disability” means an actual or perceived
- (i) loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function,
  - (ii) restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity,
  - (iii) physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement, including, but not limited to, epilepsy and any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, deafness, hardness of hearing or hearing impediment, blindness or visual

*impediment, speech impairment or impediment or reliance on a service dog as defined in the Service Dog Act, a guide dog, a wheelchair or a remedial appliance or device,*

- (iv) learning disability or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,*
- (v) condition of being mentally impaired,*
- (vi) mental disorder, or*
- (vii) dependency on drugs or alcohol.*