

BCCNP

British Columbia
College of Nursing
Professionals



IMPORTANT

As of Sept. 4, 2018, the following nursing colleges amalgamated to become the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP):

- College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia (CLPNBC)
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC)
- College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC)

Although the information in the document you are about to access reflects our most current information about this topic, you'll notice the content refers to the previous nursing college that published this document prior to Sept. 4, 2018.

We appreciate your patience while we work towards updating all of our documents to reflect our new name and brand.

RPN Registration Requirement – English Proficiency

Summary of Requirement

All RPN applicants to BCCNP must demonstrate proficiency in English. They do this by proving that they can listen, speak, read and write in English to the standards required to ensure safe practice.

Who does this Requirement apply to?

This requirement applies to applicants for any class of RPN registration with BCCNP.

How do I meet the English Proficiency Requirement?

1. **If you graduated from a psychiatric nursing program offered in English in Canada**, you meet the requirements of this standard, unless the exception in paragraph 4 applies.
2. **If you completed your psychiatric nursing education in a country other than Canada**, you need to submit information to the National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS)¹. You will be asked if your first language is English. If you declare that English is your first language, you may be exempt from taking an English-proficiency testing if:
 - a. The primary language where you live and work is English; and
 - b. English was the language of instruction in your psychiatric nursing education, both theory and clinical (Note that online or distance education programs are *not* accepted as evidence of proficiency.); and
 - c. You can provide evidence of safe practice within the last two years of working as a nurse, where services were provided in English and the primary language of the practice setting and clients was English.
3. **If your first language is not English**, or you do not meet the requirements set out above, you must take a language-proficiency test with one of the following approved agencies, and submit the results to NNAS. You must achieve the following minimum scores:

¹ All internationally educated applicants who wish to register with BCCNP must first apply directly through NNAS, an online service that carries out the initial assessment of applicants' credentials and verifies their documentation. Further information can be found at www.nnas.ca.

- a. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic version.
Minimum acceptable scores: speaking 7, listening 7.5, reading 6.5, writing 7, overall 7
- b. Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN).
Minimum acceptable scores: speaking 8, listening 10, reading 8, writing 7

Combined scores from different tests are not acceptable. Scores must be obtained from a test taken at the same sitting.

Your test results must not be more than six months old at the time you apply to NNAS.

4. **All RPN applicants:** At any time during the application process, BCCNP may ask you to complete an English-language proficiency test if there are reasonable grounds to believe your English-language proficiency may impact your ability to practise safely.

Authority

The BCCNP Registration Committee has established this requirement under the following authority:

- *Health Professions Act* (British Columbia), Sections 16, 19 & 20
- BCCNP Bylaws (Part 5 – Registration)
 - Section 230 – General conditions and requirements