

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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BOARD APPROVED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS

The State Board of Nursing's (Board's) regulations require the Board to approve English language proficiency examinations for applicants whose nursing education program was not conducted in English.* At its meeting on January 31, 2017, the Board began its review of English language proficiency examinations and minimum passing scores and approved the following:

TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language (www.ets.org)

- For the Internet-based version of the test (**TOEFL iBT**)—Achieve a passing score of **84 or higher total score, with a minimum speaking score of 26.**
- For the Paper-based version of the test (**TOEFL PBT**)—Achieve a passing score of **540 or higher total score.**

IELTS Academic - International English Language Test System Academic Test (www.ielts.org)

- Achieve a passing score of **6.5 or higher overall, with a minimum of 6.0 in each module.**

PTE Academic - Pearson Test of English Academic Test (www.pearsonpte.com)

- Achieve a passing score of **55 or higher overall, with no Communicative Skills sub-scores lower than 50 in each part.**

MELAB with Speaking Test** – Michigan English Language Assessment Battery with Speaking Test (www.cambridgemichigan.org)

- Achieve a passing score of **81 or higher overall total score and a minimum score of 3 on the Speaking Test.**

PLEASE NOTE: The MELAB English proficiency examination is no longer being offered as of June 2018. The Board can accept results of MELAB examinations sent directly from the examiner for tests conducted prior to the examination's closure.

Additional English language proficiency examinations may be added.

The Board cannot complete its review of an application until it receives valid English language proficiency scores *directly* from a Board-approved examiner. The Board will not accept a copy of the examination scores.

* See Sections 21.7(b)(2) and (3)(ii), 21.23(a), 21.28(e), 21.149(b)(2) and (3)(ii), 21.151(d) and 21.155(e) of the Board's regulations, which are available on the Board's website at www.dos.pa.gov/nurse by clicking on "Board Laws and Regulations."