

## WKU School of Nursing English Proficiency Requirements

A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for patient safety. In addition to the University requirements, all applicants to the School of Nursing for whom English is not their native language (including international and/or U.S. residents) must meet additional requirements.

**The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all applicants to the School of Nursing for whom English is not their native language, *with the exception of registered nurses who hold current United States Licensure.*** RN's for whom English is not their native language may be required to take the TOEFL or other testing before or during the course of the program, if so recommended by the Director and/or School of Nursing Faculty.

### ***Minimum TOEFL Scores for Admission to the Prelicensure Program and/or Progression in the WKU Nursing Programs***

To be considered for admission to the prelicensure program, English as a second language (ESL) applicants must achieve minimum scores on the TOEFL internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) of:

**Minimum Cumulative Score of:  
86 combined**

**AND Minimum Individual Scores of:  
26 in Speaking  
20 in Writing  
20 in Reading  
20 in Listening**

### **Test Preparation and Registration**

#### **TOEFL iBT Registration:**

- Complete information on the TOEFL iBT, including free test preparation materials, testing sites, and registration is available online at <http://www.toefl.org>. Applicants may register for the TOEFL iBT by Internet, telephone (1-800-468-6335) or mail.
- To request official TOEFL iBT scores to be sent to Western Kentucky University, enter **Institution Code 1901**.
- Only official score reports will be accepted. TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the test date.

### **Policy for Continuing Nursing Students**

Nursing students for whom English is not their native language should be aware that they may not be able to complete the program of study within the described time frame. Individual advising is available and is directed toward assisting students to be successful.

Admitted ESL nursing students who have difficulty in the nursing program may be required to engage in activities including, but not limited to, participation in additional ESL speaking, reading or writing courses, in an effort to increase the probability of their success in the program and on the on certifying examinations.

Initial Approval, School of Nursing Faculty May 14, 2008