

Undergraduate Nursing English as a Second Language (ESL) Proficiency Policy

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 (international and U.S. residents) to the undergraduate nursing programs must attest to one of the following:

1. English is my first (native language)
2. English is not my first language, but I attended 4 years of high school in an English speaking country and all courses were taught in English.
3. English is not my first language and I did not attend 4 years of high school where all courses were taught in English.

Those who fall into category 3 above must take the TOEFL internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) and obtain the following minimum scores to demonstrate proficiency in English.

Minimum Scores for ESL Admission to the Undergraduate Programs in Nursing

- **Minimum Cumulative Score of:
84 combined**
- **AND Minimum Individual Scores of:
24 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 certifying examinations.

Approved, School of Nursing Faculty 5/ 3/2019