

POLICY: Language Proficiency Requirements

INTENT

The Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia requires that applicants demonstrate reasonable fluency in English. Fluency in English is essential to providing effective care to the public. This policy outlines the minimum language proficiency requirements that a candidate must demonstrate in order to sit the qualifying examination. This policy outlined the process to verify that applicants have met the language proficiency requirements to practice denturism.

THE POLICY

All candidates must demonstrate reasonable fluency in English when applying to sit the qualifying examination. An applicant whose first language is English, and/or his/her relevant health care education and instruction was in English, is considered to have demonstrated fluency in English. Applicants who do not meet proficiency standards in English will be required to demonstrate fluency through a language proficiency test.

The Board accepts objective, third party, standardized language proficiency tests as evidence of language proficiency in English. The Board will only accept test results of non-English speaking applicants that are dated within two years of the application. Language proficiency tests do not have to be taken prior to applying to the Board. Prior to sitting the Qualifying Exams, the applicant must meet the minimum score as stated in the table below and provide their scores directly to the Board from the third party.

The Board maintains that candidates are required to interact with patient medical history forms and other documents from health care providers. Patient information must be understood, analysed and integrated in a short period of time, often under pressure. Therefore, to ensure language is not a barrier to success, candidates who apply to the Board must demonstrate fluency in English (Ref. Section 11 (a) iv of Regulations Approved by the Board, pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 2 of 2000, the Denturists Act

OPTION	LANGUAGE PROFICENCY TEST	MINIUM SCORE
1	TOEFL (Paper-based) http://www.ets.org/toefl/	560
2.	TOEFL (internet-based) http://www.ets.org/toefl/	Overall minimum of 86
	Including a minimum of:	Reading 21
		Listening 21
		Speaking 21
		Writing 21

PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

1. A candidate will be required to make a declaration on the qualifying examination application form if their first language is English or his/her relevant health care education and instruction was in English. Proof of the declaration may be required.
2. Candidates who make this declaration will be considered to have met the requirement.
3. Candidates who cannot make this declaration are required to complete a language proficiency test.
4. Candidates who have completed a language test within the past two years before application date from the recognized fluency test centre listed in the table should contact the centre, request that a copy of said language test be sent to the Registrar directly and indicate this information on the Qualifying Examination application form.
5. Language proficiency test scores must be provided with an application prior to attempting the Qualifying Examination.
6. Language proficiency test results may not be available until more than 10 business days after the test is taken. Please take timelines provided by the language proficiency test provider into account when applying to sit the Qualifying Exam.
7. The candidate is responsible for the cost of the language proficiency test.

Approved by the DLBNS November 11, 2019