

POLICY FOCUS: English Language Proficiency Requirements for Pharmacy Technicians

POLICY STATEMENT(S):

1. The English Language Proficiency (ELP) Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada are those defined by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) (see Appendix 1). The NAPRA Board at their November 2009 meeting approved the ELP standards for pharmacy technicians in Appendix 1. The College of Pharmacists of BC approved these requirements for registration as a pharmacy technician in BC.
2. Applicants who have received a diploma/certificate from a pharmacy technician program accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) will not be required to undergo English language proficiency testing.
3. All other applicants will be required to complete one of the following:
 - a. For current pharmacy technicians, during the transition period for regulation (until December 31, 2015), a transcript or diploma that confirms graduation from a secondary school, university, community college or private vocational program or equivalent located in Canada or the continental U.S. (including Alaska and Hawaii) that includes English as part of the required curriculum, or
 - b. Successful completion of one of the approved NAPRA English language proficiency tests in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada

Test	Details	Minimum Score	SEM	Minimum Score with SEM	
1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Internet-based test (iBT)	Reading	22	2	20
		Listening	21	2	19
		Speaking	23	2	21
		Writing	25	3	22
		Total Score (All Components)	91	5	86
2. Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	Composition – Part 1		80	-	80
	Listening – Part 2		80	3	77
	Grammar, Cloze, Vocabulary, Reading (GCVR) – Part 3		83	4	79
	Speaking Test		3+	-	3+
	Final Score (All Components)		81	3	78
3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Academic format	Listening	6	-	6
		Reading	6	-	6
		Writing	6	-	6
		Speaking	6	-	6
		Overall Band Score (All Components)		6.5	0.5
4. The Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)		Speaking	4.5	-	4.5
		Writing	4.0	-	4.0
		Reading	4.5	-	4.5
		Listening	4.5	-	4.5

Click here for the full document entitled "[NAPRA's Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada, November 2009](#)"

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