



English Language Policy for Certified Practicing Nutritionists (CPNs)

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1. Overview

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that overseas-qualified practitioners seeking certification as Certified Practicing Nutritionists (CPNs) in Australia possess the necessary English language skills to practice safely and effectively. This policy outlines the requirements and accepted tests for demonstrating English language proficiency and provides guidelines on exemptions, submission of results, and recency of evidence.

2. Scope of Application

This policy applies to all applicants for certification as CPNs. English language proficiency is a mandatory requirement for CPN certification, in line with the standards set by the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP). The policy must be adhered to at the time of initial practitioner certification.

3. English Language Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency unless they qualify for an exemption (see Section 7). At least two of the following approved tests are accepted to verify English language skills:

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic
2. Occupational English Test (OET)
3. Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic
4. Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT)

4. Minimum English Language Requirements

Applicants must meet the following minimum scores, depending on the test taken:

- **IELTS Academic:**
 - Overall score: 7
 - Minimum score of 7 in all four components (listening, reading, writing, and speaking)
 - One Skill Retake results are accepted
- **OET:**
 - Minimum score of 350 (equivalent to a "B") in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing, and speaking)
- **PTE Academic:**
 - Overall score: Minimum of 65
 - Minimum score of 65 in each of the four communicative skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking)

- **TOEFL iBT:**
 - Total score: Minimum of 98
 - Minimum scores in each section: 24 (listening), 24 (reading), 27 (writing), and 23 (speaking)

5. Submission of Test Results

- The original results from the testing body or a certified copy of the English language test results must be submitted with the certification application.
- Test results must be no more than two years old at the time of application. If an applicant relies on test results from two sittings, the two-year period begins from the date of the earlier sitting.
- If results are older than two years, the applicant must demonstrate continuous employment as a certified practitioner, practicing in English, which began within 12 months of the test date. The certification application must be lodged within 12 months of the last period of employment.

6. Costs of the English Language Test

Applicants are responsible for meeting the costs of the English language tests.

7. Exemptions

Applicants may be exempt from the English language requirements if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. **Completion of an Accredited Program:**
 - Completion of a program delivered in Australia and accredited by the Certifying Entity with which certification is sought.
2. **Qualifications from English-Speaking Countries:**
 - Completion of a relevant tertiary qualification in English in one of the following countries:
 - New Zealand
 - Canada
 - Republic of Ireland
 - South Africa
 - United Kingdom
 - United States of America

8. Recency of Evidence

- The test results must be valid for two years from the date of application.
- If more than two years have passed since the test date, applicants must provide evidence of continuous employment as a certified practitioner practicing in English.

9. Contact Information for Test Providers

- **IELTS:**
 - GPO Box 2006, Canberra ACT 2601
 - T: +61 2 6285 8222
 - E: ielts@idp.com
 - www.ielts.com.au
- **OET:**
 - GPO Box 372, Melbourne VIC 3001
 - T: +61 3 9825 3800
 - E: oet@oet.com.au
 - www.occupationalenglishtest.org
- **PTE Academic:**
 - www.pearsonpte.com
- **TOEFL iBT:**
 - www.toefl.org

10. Additional Information

If you have questions about the English language requirements for the CPN certification, please contact us at:

- **Email:** admin@aarpn.com

11. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it aligns with the latest standards and requirements for safe and effective practice in Australia.

Review date: September 2027.