

General Academic English Language Proficiency Requirements (May 2025)

1. Overview

English is the language of instruction in all programs at NLC. Thus, it is imperative that NLC students meet minimum English Language Proficiency requirements.

In University Arts and Sciences and additional baccalaureate-level programs, students are required to have English Studies 12, English First Peoples 12, ENGL 050, or an equivalent course. Required final grades are specified by program.

2. Select Baccalaureate-Level Programs

The following English Language Requirement applies to programs in the following academic areas: Management, Early Childhood Education, Education Assistant, Social Services, and University Arts and Sciences¹.

- A. Domestic students² and students from countries³ that practice Standard Written English must have official transcripts demonstrating that they have met the English Requirements of their selected program, as set out in the Program Completion Guide. Alternatively, they can meet the requirement with any university-level English writing course⁴ with a "C" grade or higher. Students who do not meet the above English requirements may complete the NLC Writing Assessment for appropriate course placement.
- B. International students who do not meet the requirement in 2.A. above, and domestic students who received their secondary education in French or another language, must show that they have met the NLC English requirement for the programs specified above by demonstrating one of the following:
- Documented completion of one of the following recognized English Language Proficiency assessment tools, with corresponding assessment results:
 - An Academic IELTS result with an overall score of 6.0 or higher with no band less than 5.5. Students with a writing band of 5.5 are required to complete English 099 with a "C" grade or higher in their initial semester.
 - A TOEFL iBT result with an overall score of 78 or higher, with the following minimum scores by band: Speaking (19), Listening (19), Reading (18), Writing (23). Students with a writing band below 28 are required to complete English 099 with a "C" grade or higher in their initial semester.
 - A Canadian Academic English Assessment (CAEL) result with an overall score of 60 or higher, with the following minimum scores by band: Speaking (50), Listening (60), Reading (60), Writing (60). Students with a writing band below 70 are required to complete English 099 with a "C" grade or higher in their initial semester.
 - A Pearson Test of English (PTE) result with an overall score of 57 or higher, with the following minimum scores by band: Speaking (50), Listening (52), Reading (57), Writing (68). Students with a writing band below 68 are required to complete English 099 with a "C" grade or higher in their initial semester.

- A Duolingo English Test result with an overall score of 110 or higher. Students with a Production score below 115 and/or a Literacy score below 125 are required to complete English 099 with a "C" grade or higher in their initial semester.
- Cambridge-Michigan Language Assessment (CaMLA) 69 plus NLC's Writing Assessment.
- Documented completion of a post-secondary credential from an accredited institution in a country that practices Standard Written English, that is assessed as equivalent to a similar program from an accredited Canadian institution with its own appropriate English Language Requirement.
- Documented completion of the last two years of full-time Canadian secondary school education in English, within 12 months of the proposed program start date, which meets the English Requirements of their selected program, as set out in the Program Completion Guide.
- Completion of NLC's English for Academic Purposes (EAP) 060-level Certificate.

Where international students and domestic students who received their secondary education in French or another language are unable to provide an appropriate IELTS score or equivalent, such students may be conditionally enrolled in an NLC program with permission of the Chair. Upon arrival at NLC, these students will be assessed by the ESL department and transferred to the appropriate level of the EAP program as necessary.

¹ Not applicable to the Associate of Arts Degree (Health Studies), the Engineering Certificate, nor the Engineering Studies Certificate.

² Except those whose secondary education was conducted in French or in another language.

³ American Samoa; Anguilla; Antigua & Barbuda; Australia; Bahamas; Barbados; Bermuda; Belize; Botswana; British Virgin Islands; Canada; Cayman Islands; Dominica; Falkland Islands; Fiji; Gambia; Ghana; Gibraltar; Grenada; Guam; Guyana; Ireland; Jamaica; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Malta; Mauritius; Montserrat; New Zealand; Nigeria; Philippines; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; South Africa; St. Helena; St. Kitts & Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent & the Grenadines; Trinidad & Tobago; Tanzania; Turks & Caicos Islands; Uganda; United Kingdom; USA; US Virgin Islands; Zambia; Zimbabwe. Note: the NLC Registrar's Office, in consultation with Deans and subject matter experts, will determine the equivalency by country. The Registrar's office may update the list of approved countries as appropriate in consultation with the Dean.

⁴ From accredited institutions in Canada or from the above list of countries that practice Standard Written English.