



English Language Proficiency Requirements – Pharmacy Technicians

Updated 8/12/2019

Rule [4729:3-2-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#) and Board policy, requires any pharmacy technician or trainee applicant who has a foreign school diploma that is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma to demonstrate English language proficiency by either:

1. Submitting evidence of successful completion of the "Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-based test" (TOEFL iBT).

-OR-

2. Submit a diploma or transcript demonstrating completion of an associate's degree or higher from an accredited college, junior college, community college or university in the United States.

Additionally, if the pharmacy technician trainee or trainee applicant has completed an approved training program by a healthcare licensing board (Ohio State Dental Board, Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, State Medical Board of Ohio, or Ohio Board of Nursing) and obtained licensure with that board, the applicant will not be required to submit successful completion of the Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-based test. In lieu of TOEFL scores, the applicant shall submit a verification of licensure (see Q7).

To assist applicants with this requirement, the Board has developed the following frequently asked questions document.

If you need additional information, you may e-mail the Board at technician@pharmacy.ohio.gov.

Q1) Why is this requirement necessary?

A1) Language proficiency is an essential skill required of all pharmacy technicians in the day to day practice of pharmacy in Ohio. Although language proficiency does not



guarantee that effective communication will take place, it is the foundation for reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills – all components of communication. A pharmacy technician’s ability to communicate is critical in the delivery of safe and effective patient care. To this end, Ohio requires all technician, pharmacist and pharmacy intern applicants to meet the same English proficiency standards to ensure effective communication across the profession.

Q2) Where can I find more information about taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-based test (TOEFL iBT)?

A2) More information about the TOEFL iBT can be accessed here:

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about>

Educational Testing Service may also be contacted via phone: **1-877-863-3546** (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–7:45 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, except for U.S. holidays)

Q3) How much does it cost to take the TOEFL iBT?

A3) More information about fees can be accessed here:

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/fees/>

Q4) What are the scores I need to successfully complete the TOEFL iBT to become registered as a pharmacy technician or trainee?

A4) [Rule 4729:3-2-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#) requires the following minimum scores or higher:

- Writing: twenty-four
- Speaking: twenty-six
- Listening: twenty-one
- Reading: twenty-two

Q5) How do I submit my TOEFL iBT scores to the Board of Pharmacy?

A5) A copy of your score report must be submitted electronically as part of your application. For more information about obtaining your scores, visit:

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/scores/get/>

Instructions for submitting additional documentation as part of your application can be accessed here:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Licensing/PTech/eLicense/Submitting%20Additional%20Documentation.pdf>

IMPORTANT: Documentation must be submitted electronically. Documents mailed to the Board will not be processed.

Q6) How do I submit a diploma or transcript demonstrating completion of an associate degree or higher from an accredited college, junior college, community college or university in the United States?

A6) A copy of your diploma or official transcript demonstrating successful completion of a degree must be submitted as part of your application. Instructions for submitting additional documentation as part of your application can be accessed here:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Licensing/PTech/eLicense/Submitting%20Additional%20Documentation.pdf>

IMPORTANT: Documentation must be submitted electronically. Documents mailed to the Board will not be processed.

Q7) How do I submit my licensure obtained from a healthcare licensing board (Ohio State Dental Board, Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, State Medical Board of Ohio, of Ohio Board of Nursing)?

A7) The applicant must submit a verification of licensure. License verification can be supplied via https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_verifylicense.

Q8) I am a foreign graduate but native English speaker. Am I still required to complete the TOEFL iBT?

A8) All foreign graduates are required to take the TOEFL iBT if they do not have a US diploma or transcript demonstrating completion of an associate degree or higher from an accredited college, junior college, community college or university in the United States.