

**IUPUI GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH**

HISTORICAL RATIONALE:

- With the exceptions of the IU-Graduate School and the Purdue Graduate School, few other graduate or professional programs at IUPUI had a minimum language proficiency standard for international students admitted to their programs.
- Some programs were not making an effort to determine language proficiency of non-native speakers before or after admission. Others merely needed guidance about what constitutes English proficiency.
- The campus as a whole and the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in particular often found its integrity compromised by the lack of a minimum standard. Visa documents require that OIA attest to a student's language proficiency. Because of the lack of campus-wide standards, OIA was asked to certify English proficiency for some students of questionable proficiency. This situation violated the standards of good practice for International Affairs officers.
- Standardized tests of English as a second language proficiency that measure students' preparedness for academic study are the most reliable measures of language proficiency. Personal interviews and telephone conversations are unreliable.

POLICY:

Effective with students admitted for fall 2000 and thereafter, to gain admission, all graduate and professional applicants to IUPUI whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English as a second language. This policy thus applies to students enrolling in all graduate level programs including graduate certificate programs. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited university in the U.S. or an officially recognized university in a country where English is the predominant native language will be deemed proficient. A list of countries where English has been determined to be the predominant language is appended. All other students must perform satisfactorily on a standardized test of proficiency in English as a second language that measures students' preparedness for academic study. At this time, these are the acceptable examinations and minimum scores:

- TOEFL paper-based test – minimum score = 550
- TOEFL web-based test – minimum score = 79
- ~~IELTS test – minimum score = 6.0~~
- IELTS test – minimum score = 6.5
- Pearson Test of English – Academic (PTEA) – minimum score = 54
- IUPUI EAP Placement Exam administered by the EAP program – minimum placement = no course below G011 for any student who will enroll on an F-1 or J-1 visa.
- Other objective tests of EAP proficiency and minimum scores as agreed upon by the English for Academic Purposes Program and the Office of International Affairs.

Upon arrival, all graduate and professional students admitted to IUPUI who were required to take the TOEFL must take the EAP Placement Exam administered by the EAP Program before enrolling in the first semester of courses, unless they have submitted an official TOEFL iBT score of 100 or IELTS score of 7.5. Students must take the EAP courses in which they have been placed beginning in the first or second semester of enrollment at IUPUI.

The above policy is a MINIMUM standard for the campus. This policy does not preclude any department or school from setting a higher standard. For example, some departments or schools may choose to require that all non-native speakers of English will take the EAP Placement Exam regardless of previous standardized test scores or education.

ADMINISTRATION:

The implementation of this policy will be the joint responsibility of the Graduate Office of IUPUI and the Office of International Affairs at IUPUI. This policy has been developed by these offices and reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee and approved by the Chancellor. Changes in this policy may be made by the same process in the future. The policy is effective with student admitted for fall 2000 and thereafter.

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Chancellor Gerald L. Bepko

Updated: September 22, 2009
Graduate Affairs Committee
Chancellor Charles R. Bantz

PTEA option added July 2010
IUPUI Office of International Affairs

Recommended Changes to IUPUI's Graduate & Professional English Proficiency Requirements for Non-Native Speakers of English

1. IELTS English proficiency test score requirement for graduate admission.

The Graduate Office and OIA have successfully aligned most Purdue and IUPUI English proficiency related policy areas for master's degree admission; the only significant remaining discrepancy is Purdue's IELTS requirement of 6.5 compared to 6.0 for IUPUI. Research published by ETS suggests that IELTS score of 6.5 is a closer match to the iBT minimum of 79:
<https://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare/>.

The Graduate Office suggests that consideration be given to raising the IUPUI graduate admission standard to 6.5 for better alignment with the TOEFL iBT standard, and also to simplify policy communications across IUPUI programs.

OIA-generated data on test performance of graduate students enrolling with score of 6.0 are inconclusive, primarily due to the small data set available. Only six (6) graduate students enrolled in Fall 2012 based on an IELTS score of 6.0; all six were placed in 1-2 EAP courses.

2. Exempting some graduate students from EAP testing.

Growth in international enrollment is putting pressure on capacity for EAP Placement Testing during new international student orientation. Current trends involve significant enrollment of students from India, who are more likely to be exempted than other populations, and who frequently advocate that they should be exempted from the EAP Testing process. The EAP Program has previously shared research indicating that students with iBT score of 100 or higher are not likely to be placed into EAP courses. Fall 2012 placement test data further validates this research.

The OIA suggests that consideration be given to identifying specified TOEFL iBT and IELTS scores to permit exemption from EAP testing for graduate students.

The IUPUI EAP Program has endorsed exempting students with TOEFL iBT of 100 or higher, and IELTS score of 7.5 or higher from the EAP Placement Test.