

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ADMISSION POLICY

Most applicants for whom English is a not the first/native language must demonstrate English Proficiency regardless of English language studies, academic history, residence in the United States or other English-speaking countries, or immigration status.

Seattle University maintains the right to require English Proficiency testing when deemed necessary. The most recent demonstration of English Proficiency (i.e. test scores or course work, as per the policies described below) will be counted toward the English Proficiency requirement, regardless of whether previous scores are higher. Following the submission of English Proficiency score reports, requests for testing waivers will not be considered.

Meeting the English Proficiency Requirement:

The chart below outlines Seattle University's English Proficiency testing requirements for both general admission and admission to the University's Culture and Language Bridge program. Score reports become part of a student's permanent record and can be used for subsequent Seattle University applications provided the minimum language proficiency requirement was met.

TOEFL exams have two different grading scales based on the two different formats in which the test is offered: the internet-based test (iBT) and the paper-based test (PBT). The iBT is based on a 0-120 scale. The PBT is based on a 0-677 scale.

Applicants may also fulfill the English Proficiency requirement through SAT and ACT scores. On the SAT test, scores of 450 or higher in both the Critical Reading and Writing sections will fulfill the requirement. ACT sub-scores of 22 or higher in both the English and Reading sections will fulfill the requirement.

Students attending ELS Language Centers (US locations only) who have completed Level 112 with a minimum 2.75 ELS grade point average are considered to have met the minimum English proficiency requirement and will be required to complete Seattle University's undergraduate Culture and Language Bridge Program if offered admission.

TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE Academic scores are valid and available from testing agencies for up to two years from the exam date. SAT and ACT Scores are valid for one year from the exam date.

English Proficiency Testing Options	Undergraduate General Admission	Graduate General Admission	Undergraduate Culture and Language Bridge option	Graduate Culture and Language Bridge option*
TOEFL (<i>Test of English as a Foreign Language</i>)	580 PBT/ 92 iBT	580 PBT/ 92 iBT	520 PBT/68 iBT	567 PBT/ 86 iBT
IELTS (<i>International English Testing System</i>)	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.5
Institutional MELAB (<i>Michigan English Language Assessment Battery</i>)	83%	83%	75%	80%
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	62	62	46	58
ACT	22 in English <u>and</u> Reading sections	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAT	450 in Critical Reading <u>and</u> Writing sections	N/A	N/A	N/A
ELS Language Centers	N/A	N/A	Level 112 with a 2.75 GPA	N/A

*Because of their curriculum's design, some graduate programs cannot accommodate CLB students. Such admitted students must complete CLB prior to starting their graduate studies.

Exceptions to the English Proficiency requirement:

- First-year applicants who complete their entire high school curriculum in the United States or Canada, or at American schools abroad, may have the English Proficiency requirement waived if their transcript does not include any ESL course work and the high school cumulative grade point average is 2.75 or higher.
- Transfer applicants from U.S. colleges who meet the same criteria as first-year applicants above may have the English Proficiency requirement waived.
- Transfer applicants who have completed ESL courses at a college or university must fulfill the English Proficiency requirement regardless of prior history.
- Graduate and post-baccalaureate applicants who have earned a bachelor or advanced degree at Seattle University or at a recognized college or university in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, and who have continued to reside in countries where English is the primary language for at least two years prior to submission of the application, will be considered to have met the English Proficiency requirement.

- The Dean of Admissions reserves the right to require further Proof of English Proficiency documentation in addition to the guidelines described above. Additionally, the Admissions Review Committee retains the option to waive the English Proficiency requirement in special circumstances.

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