



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY

NUMBER/TITLE: AA-114.3, LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Covered Individuals: Students for whom English is not their primary language, Admissions and Enrollment Management

Covered Locations: All

Effective Date: 2/9/2022

Strategic Plan: SP 1.2

HLC: Criterion 3

Consultations: CAO; Dean of Academic & Educational Affairs; Registrar; Executive Director, FS; Director, MVA; Faculty (Academic Affairs Committee)

POLICY STATEMENT

International students who do not speak or have a limited ability to speak, read, or write English well enough to understand and communicate effectively must demonstrate English proficiency to be admitted as a student at Upper Iowa University (UIU).

PURPOSE

To set the University's requirements and standards for evaluating the English language ability of the applications and provision for supporting students with their English language and to improve the potential for success to be admitted to UIU.

DEFINITIONS

Matriculated: A student enrolled in a degree program.

Examination Score: Scores from assessment tools displaying the ability of students to use the English language to make and communicate meaning in spoken and written contexts that are accepted as proof of English Proficiency.

Students: This policy pertains to only non-native English speakers.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

English Proficiency Requirements

To be considered for admission, international students and non-English speaking students must validate they have met Upper Iowa University's proficiency requirement in English in one of the ways listed in Table 1. The student will be notified in writing of the approval or denial of admission. Students whose native language is not English will be required to submit an official examination score report providing evidence of his/her level of English proficiency. If a student does not complete the admission process and enroll within that session, materials may be required to be resubmitted.

Until a student submits all required admissions documentation, they are considered a non-degree seeking student. A non-degree-seeking international student is not eligible for financial aid, is limited to no more than six credits at UIU, and may not have a degree conferred; **only Fayette campus** students must establish English Proficiency prior to admission and matriculation. International students on campus must be degree-seeking and full-time. No option for non-degree seeking.

English Proficiency Validation		
TEST	UNDERGRADUATE	GRADUATE
TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language		
Paper-based	500	550
Internet-based	61	79
IELTS - International English Language Testing System	5.0	6.0
Required Writing Score	5.0	6.0
MELAB - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery	69	77
MUET - Malaysian University English Test	4.0	5.0
Cambridge O Level English Language Exam	D	n/a
Duolingo	83	97
IGCSE - International General Certificate of Secondary Education (English Subject)	D	n/a
ELS Language Center	112	n/a
SAT – Institution code: 6885; minimum critical reading sub-score	430	n/a
ACT – Institution code: 1360; minimum English sub-score	18	n/a
HKCEE English Language (Syllabus B)	D	n/a
HKALE English Language (AS Level)	E	n/a
HKDSE	3	n/a
Oxford Online Placement Test (Fayette campus only)	70	n/a
PTE - Pearson Test of English (Fayette campus only)	44	n/a

Table 1

UIU will consider the following evidence to meet the requirement of English proficiency:

1. Official transcripts validating completion of secondary education from a U.S. high school or GED equivalent.
2. Official transcripts validating a minimum of two years of instruction at the secondary education level in a country where the official language is English or an English language international school.
3. Official transcripts from a two-year minimum combination of secondary and post-secondary education in a country where the official language is English.

If a student is transferring from a U.S. institution or has been educated in one of the English proficiency waiver countries, the English proficiency requirement is waived at the **Fayette campus**. English-speaking countries are listed below:

American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua, and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guam, Ireland, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Montserrat, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norfolk Island, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Academic & Student Affairs

4. Official transcripts showing 24 or more successfully completed college-level semester credits from a regionally accredited college or University within the United States with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. Non-degree awarding credits (i.e., IEP, foundations, or deemed equivalent credits) will not be considered to meet this requirement.
5. Successful completion of a UIU approved Intensive English Program (IEP).

CUSTODIAN

Chief Academic Officer (CAO).

RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS, AND POLICIES

AA-114.2.A, Duolingo Supplemental Handout.

HISTORY

New/Revision Number	Date of Action/Approval	Revision Change
AA-114.3	April 9, 2025 (by PC)	Revision made to update titles. Review part of three-year cycle.
AA-114.2	February 9, 2022	Policy put into new template; PC approved.
AA-114.2	November 2021	English Proficiency Duolingo from Academic Catalog merged as the Language Proficiency for International Students Policy; supplemental handout included.
AA-114	July 15, 2021	VPASA approved new policy.