

**MEMORANDUM****DATE:** June 28, 2018**TO:** Faculty and Professional Academic Advisors**FROM:** Pamela Coonan, Executive Director for Academic & Curricular Affairs  
Celeste Pardee, Assistant Director for Academic Policies and Organizations**RE: Second Language Requirement for Undergraduate International Students**

At the request of SVPAA Gail Burd, we're notifying you about the status of the Second Language Requirement for **international students who are native speakers of languages other than English**. The current Catalog policy is as follows:

*International students who are native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the Second Language Requirement with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), provided that it was an admissions requirement and their score was satisfactory for admission to the University of Arizona. Alternatively, in lieu of an acceptable score on one of these standardized tests, an Endorsement from the [Center for English as a Second Language \(CESL\)](#) may satisfy the Second Language Requirement. U.S. citizens and international students from countries where English is the official language may not use the TOEFL, IELTS, or CESL Endorsement to satisfy the Second Language Requirement; those students must meet the requirement through one of the options stated above [see <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/second-language-requirement-undergraduate-degrees>].*

**Prior to Fall 2007**, satisfactory completion of ENGL 107/108 (composition for international students for whom English is a second language) had fulfilled the Composition and Language Requirements for those students who placed into that sequence. But the University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) proposed in Spring 2007 that the Second Language requirement for international students be disconnected from the Freshman Composition Requirement (i.e., ENGL 107/108) and replaced by the UA Admissions requirement of the TOEFL (the IELTS and CESL Endorsement were added 2 years later). The UWGEC's proposal was subsequently approved by the UGC and Faculty Senate, effective in August 2007 for all undergraduates.

**Two years ago, in Spring 2016**, the CESL Director suggested that the Undergraduate Council (UGC) amend the Second Language Policy with additional exams and scores set by the Admissions Office for international-student admission purposes. UGC members opposed this proposal on the grounds that many international students who were admitted with a minimum TOEFL or IELTS score were NOT proficient in English as their second language. They felt that UA Admissions standards wouldn't ensure that our international students could successfully function in an English-speaking classroom, so CESL's suggestion went no further.

**As a temporary measure of last resort**, Graduation Services was permitted in Spring 2016 to apply the ENGL 107/108 sequence with a minimum "C" grade in ENGL 108 toward the Second Language Requirement for those international students who placed into it. Graduation Services advisors agreed to make this adjustment



to a student's Academic Advisement Report only for graduating international students who had met all degree requirements except for the Second Language Requirement. This option was not presented to academic advisors other than Graduation Services because this was envisioned as a short-term fix for very few students.

Regrettably, as no other policy proposals have been presented, that "short-term fix" has lasted for two years. To seek a solution to our dated Catalog policy, Pam Coonan and Gail Burd will convene a task force of stakeholders to consider alternatives for satisfying the Second Language Requirement and to recommend additional options for our international students. The task force's recommendations will then be considered by the appropriate faculty committees. Hopefully by next Spring, we'll be able to announce an official Second Language Policy amendment.

