

## **Second Language Requirement – New Option for International Students**

*Approved motion from the University-wide General Education Committee, 1/31/07;  
approved by Undergraduate Council, 3/20/07; by Faculty Senate, 5/7/07.*

### **General Catalog Policy, 2006-07: Second Language Requirement**

*U.S. students who are native speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department. Foreign students who are native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the second language requirement through proficiency in English (i.e., successful completion of ENGL 107 and 108).*

### **Rationale for adding a new option for International Students:**

College advisors recommended to the University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) that international students, regardless of their English proficiency, should not be required to take a UA department proficiency exam in their native language in order to satisfy the General Education Second Language requirement. UWGEC proposed that (1) the Second Language requirement be disconnected from the Freshman Composition requirement, and (2) any international student who passes the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as a UA admissions requirement be considered proficient in a second language. UWGEC members believe that the TOEFL admissions requirement is a sufficient indicator that the international student meets or surpasses the fourth-semester language skill level required for any bachelor's degree. Those students should not have to take a UA proficiency exam to satisfy the Second Language requirement.

### **Revised Catalog Statement** (changes in bold print):

*U.S. students who are native speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department.*

***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), provided that it was an admissions requirement and their score was satisfactory for admission to the University of Arizona. U.S. citizens and international students from countries where English is the official language may not use the TOEFL to satisfy the Second Language Requirement; those students must meet the requirement through one of the options stated above.***

### **Management of the new option:**

College advisors may check the student's country (or province or state) on the Admissions site, [http://admissions.arizona.edu/intluga/Country\\_Req.htm](http://admissions.arizona.edu/intluga/Country_Req.htm), to find out if the TOEFL were required for admission. The following minimum TOEFL scores are currently required for admission to the University: 500 (PBT), 173 (CBT) or 61 (IBT). [Note: Scores are subject to change each year and differ depending on which version of the test is taken: paper-based, computer-based, Internet-based.] If the TOEFL was an Admissions requirement, and if the TOEFL score equals or exceeds the minimum (information available on Matrix Admissions screens or on Advisor Link), the college advisor may waive the student's Second Language requirement on the SAPR and enter a memo, "TOEFL score satisfies Second Language requirement."

### **Effective term:**

Summer 2007 (i.e., August graduates) for all international students, regardless of their catalog.