

Amendment to the Second Language Requirement for International Students

Effective Term: Fall 2011 for all international students, regardless of Catalog year.

Approved Amendment to the Second Language Requirement – changes in bold print will be made to the General Catalog, <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2010-11/policies/secondlang.htm>

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.

Rationale for the Change:

The TOEFL score was approved in 2007 to satisfy the General Education Second Language requirement, and the IELTS score was approved in Spring 2010. All international applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the TOEFL or IELTS as an admissions requirement. Those who are unable to earn the minimum score for admission often choose to improve their English skills with intensive study at the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL). In 2005 CESL began awarding an English language endorsement to students who attained advanced levels in CESL's curriculum but who continued to struggle with the standardized tests.

Admissions accepts the endorsement as an equivalent option for satisfying the English requirement since it's an assessment of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills over a period of time. Since the minimum TOEFL/ IELTS score is a sufficient indicator that the international student meets the second-semester or fourth-semester language skill level required for any bachelor's degree, then an equivalent option, such as the CESL endorsement, also indicates this proficiency. Actually, the criteria for earning the CESL endorsement may be a better indication of the student's English communication skills: grades of B or higher in all advanced-level CESL classes, average proficiency scores of '7' in the 4 skill areas, a writing sample, and recommendations from all the students' CESL instructors (in addition to completing the TOEFL/ IELTS within the last 6 months).

Implementation:

Data on the academic performance and retention of students who enroll at the UA with the minimum IELTS/ TOEFL scores or CESL endorsement will be collected and analyzed. If data demonstrate that the minimum scores are too low or the CESL endorsement is inadequate for students to meet UA standards of academic progress, Undergraduate Council will recommend that English proficiency benchmarks for admissions be raised and will consider modifications to the General Education Second Language policy.

Approvals:

Undergraduate Council:	12/14/10
Graduate Council:	N/A
Academic Deans:	2/2/11
Administrative Review:	2/14/11
Faculty Senate:	3/7/11