

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

English Language Proficiency Requirement For Graduate Students

All graduate students whose first language is not English **must** meet the English language proficiency requirement prior to enrollment in academic classes. Please note that this requirement applies to all students, including resident aliens and citizens.

Requiring valid proof of English language proficiency is a mandate of the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS); the Office of Admissions and Records merely enforces the mandate. Thus, **only** the OGS (**not** Admissions and Records) can approve any exceptions. If you have not met the English language proficiency requirement, please **do not** approach the OGS to ask for an exception or waiver. Instead, discuss your situation with the graduate coordinator in your department. Depending on your special circumstances, your department may choose to submit a petition to the OGS asking for a waiver/amendment to the TOEFL requirement. But please note that waivers/amendments are rarely granted.

Some graduate departments will recommend admission without proof of the English language proficiency; however, many will not. Please ask your graduate coordinator to explain your department's policy.

Valid proof of English language proficiency:

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree at a college/university where English is the only language of instruction.
2. Minimum required official score on the International TOEFL or the PSU Institutional TOEFL,
3. TOEFL score more than two years old *if* the score exceeded the minimum requirement *and* you have maintained continuous residency in the U.S. since the exam date, or
4. Successful completion of the ESL program at PSU and release of the ESL coordinator.

<i>Required minimum TOEFL score:</i>	<u>Paper-based Test</u>	<u>Computer-based Test</u>
Masters and Doctoral	550*	213*

*Some graduate programs require a higher TOEFL score. Please consult the graduate coordinator in your academic department to verify minimum score required.

Invalid proof of English language proficiency:

1. TOEFL score less than the minimum requirement,
2. TOEFL score more than two years old (unless you have lived continuously in the U.S. since the exam date),
3. Institutional TOEFL score from any school except PSU, or
4. Completion of an ESL program at any school except PSU.

PSU Institutional TOEFL

The PSU Institutional TOEFL is offered several times each year:

1. One week prior to the beginning of fall term, and
2. Mid-way through fall, winter, and spring terms.

Please contact the Office of Admissions and Records for specific dates and registration information.

If your department does recommend admission but you have not met the English language proficiency requirement, your enrollment, if you are admitted, will be restricted to ESL classes. *No Exceptions!!*

Contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (503) 725-3511 or by email at intladm@mail.pdx.edu if you have questions.