

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ADMISSION POLICY

Applicants for whom English is not their first/native language must demonstrate English proficiency regardless of English language studies, residence in the United States or other English-speaking countries, or immigration status.

The most recent demonstration of English proficiency (i.e., test scores or course work, as per the policies described below) will be applied toward the English proficiency requirement, regardless of whether previous scores are higher. Following the submission of English proficiency score reports, requests for testing waivers will not be considered.

Meeting the English Proficiency Requirement:

The chart below outlines Seattle University’s English proficiency testing requirements for general admission as well as admission to the University’s English Language and Culture Bridge program. Score reports become part of a student’s permanent record and can be used for subsequent Seattle University applications, provided the minimum language proficiency requirement was met.

TOEFL exams have two different grading scales based on the two different formats in which the test is offered: the internet-based test (iBT) and the paper-based test (PBT). The iBT is based on a 0-120 scale. The PBT is based on a 0-677 scale.

Applicants may also fulfill the English Proficiency requirement through SAT and ACT scores. On the SAT test, a score of 500 or higher in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing will fulfill the requirement. ACT sub-scores of 20 or higher in both the English and Reading sections will fulfill the requirement.

Students attending ELS Language Centers (U.S. locations only) who have completed Level 112 with a minimum 3.0 ELS grade point average are considered to have met the minimum English proficiency requirement and will be required to complete Seattle University’s undergraduate English Language and Culture Bridge (ELCB) program if offered admission.

TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE Academic scores are valid and available from testing agencies for up to two years from the exam date. SAT and ACT scores are valid for one year from the exam date.

English Proficiency Testing Options	Undergraduate General Admission	Graduate General Admission	Undergraduate English Language & Culture Bridge option	Graduate English Language & Culture Bridge option *
TOEFL (<i>Test of English as a Foreign Language</i>)	580 PBT/ 92 iBT	580 PBT/ 92 iBT	520 PBT/68 iBT	567 PBT/ 86 iBT

IELTS <i>(International English Language Testing System)</i>	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.5
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	63	63	47	58
ACT	20 in English and Reading sections	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAT	500 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A
ELS Language Centers	N/A	N/A	Level 112 with a 3.0 GPA	N/A

*Because of their curriculum's design, some graduate programs cannot accommodate ELCB students. Such admitted students must complete ELCB prior to starting their graduate studies.

Additional Options to Meet English Proficiency Requirements

First-year and transfer applicants who complete their entire high school curriculum in the United States, parts of Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia or at American schools abroad, may have the English Proficiency requirement waived if their transcript does not include any ESL course work and the high school cumulative grade point average and four years of English composition/literature average of 3.0 or higher.

Post-baccalaureate applicants who have earned a bachelor or advanced degree at Seattle University or at a recognized college or university in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, and who have continued to reside in countries where English is the primary language for at least two years prior to submission of the application, will be considered to have met the English Proficiency requirement.

The Dean of Admissions for undergraduate applicants and Graduate Program Directors for graduate applicants reserve the right to require further proof of English proficiency documentation in addition to the guidelines described above. Additionally, the Admissions Review Board may elect to waive the English proficiency requirement under special circumstances.

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