

Revision to Admission Policy for International Students

Assigned to Policy and Planning Committee for February 2008 Graduate Council Meeting
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IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. It measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking – for people who intend to study or work where English is the language of communication.

The Policy and Planning Committee is asked to review the current policy (see below) and make a recommendation to the Graduate Council at the February meeting regarding the use of the IELTS in place of the TOEFL. Appalachian State uses the following:

The TOEFL minimum score depends upon which form of the exam you take.

- Internet based TOEFL: 79 with no subsection under 11.
- Computer based TOEFL: 217 with no subsection under 14.
- Paper based TOEFL: 550 with no subsection under 45.

The IELTS minimum score is 6.5 (7.0 to be considered for financial assistance).

Suggestion: 6.5 as a minimum and 7.0 to be eligible for a TA.

Current catalogue copy concerning international students:

ADMISSIONS – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students must present evidence of their ability to speak, read, and write the English language and to meet fully the financial obligations associated with their study at the university. Students from foreign countries where English is not the primary language must present the results of the TOEFL examination (Test of English as a Foreign Language) as a part of their application for admission. A minimum score of 213 (computerized test), 550 (paper test), or a minimum score of 80 on the Internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) is required for admission to all programs, but this score does not guarantee acceptance. For those applicants who do not meet the TOEFL requirements, UNCW offers conditional acceptance to degree programs for those students who successfully complete the UNCW ESL program and are academically admissible to the university. A financial responsibility statement must also be submitted.

In addition to the TOEFL, international applicants who do not speak English as a primary language and who wish to become teaching assistants are required to demonstrate competence in oral communication skills if the teaching assistantship involves classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, or tutoring. A minimum score of 45 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or a minimum of 25 on the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT or an examination of comparable score on an equivalent test is required to be eligible for an instructional assignment. Minimum score criteria may be higher for some graduate programs.