

Northwood University English Proficiency Policy for International Students

The Northwood University policy regarding English Proficiency for international students shall be as follows and is in effect immediately following the date of adoption:

I. Waiver of English proficiency requirement

The university will waive the English proficiency requirement for:

- 1) applicants who have resided for at least five (5) years within **and are citizens** of a country where English is the, or one of, the official languages (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland) as designated in the CIA World Factbook at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2098.html>;
- 2) applicants who have completed all two (2) years of coursework for an accredited Associate of Arts (AA) degree conducted **entirely** in English;
- 3) applicants who come from an accredited educational program where the student has been enrolled full-time and taken at least two (2) years of post-secondary instruction conducted **entirely** in English.

In all cases, applicants must be able to provide documentation (which includes official transcripts) verifying these conditions.

II. Evidence of English proficiency

As evidence of language proficiency, Northwood University (NU) accepts scores from:

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
- STEP (Japanese exam)
- UCLES Cambridge exams
- International Baccalaureate (IB) exams (undergraduate admission only)
- ELS Language Centers (Level 112)
- ACT or SAT scores (undergraduate admission only)

Following are the English Language proficiency requirements for **regular admission** to Northwood University based on **official** test scores from each testing service. **Official scores must be less than two (2) years old.**

EXAM	Minimum Score – Undergraduate	Minimum Score Graduate (MBA)
TOEFL	500 (Paper) 173 (Computer-based) 61 (Internet-based)	550 (Paper) 213 (Computer-based) 80 (Internet-based)
IELTS	6.0 overall band score	7.0 overall band score
STEP (Japanese based exam)	Pre-1 st Grade Level	Grade 1
International Baccalaureate (IB) – <i>Undergraduate only</i>	5 on English A1 or A2 exam	Not accepted for graduate admission
UCLES Cambridge Exams	FCE or CAE (minimum score of C)	CAE or CPE (minimum score of C)
ELS Language Centers	Level 112	Level 112
ACT or SAT <i>Undergraduate only</i>	ACT – 18 for both composite and reading subscore SAT – 450 Critical Reading	Not accepted for graduate admission

UNDERGRADUATE applicants who submit standardized scores that do not meet these minimum requirements may be considered for **provisional admission**. In this circumstance, the university reserves the right to:

- 1) require the completion and submission of a Northwood University English Placement Test prior to arrival in the U.S.;

AND

- 2) grant provisional admission but require the student to complete mandatory ESL coursework and/or register for a reduced course load and/or attend mandatory tutoring/academic assistance for a length of time to be specified by the university.

These conditions shall be communicated in writing to the applicant.

The university requires the submission of standardized exam scores unless the requirement has been waived as noted above. The standardized exam is by far the best evidence of language proficiency in terms of application materials. However, undergraduate applicants who do not submit a standardized exam score may also be considered for provisional admission provided they:

1. Complete and submit a required Northwood University English Placement Test (EPT) that will be evaluated and scored by a Northwood University faculty member. The EPT must be administered by an NU employee or a proctor designated by NU prior to the student's arrival in the U.S. **or** immediately upon arrival at NU prior to the onset of coursework.

OR

2. Present scores from institutional tests regarding proficiency in English. Such scores must be submitted on original institutional letterhead and must include a written explanation of the exam format and scoring/evaluation procedure and a quantitative comparison of the score to that of a standardized exam score such as the Cambridge, TOEFL, IELTS or STEP.

In the absence of standardized exam scores, the university reserves the right to deny admission on that basis alone.

GRADUATE student applicants to the DeVos Graduate School **must** submit standardized exam scores. Applications cannot be considered without the submission of an official score report. However, if an applicant's undergraduate coursework was delivered **entirely** in English, standardized exam scores may be waived provided the applicant provides official institutional documentation of delivery in English and/or agrees to pre-admission oral interview.

Adopted: 18 February 2008
Approved by: John Jasinski
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