



Academic Policy

English Proficiency Policy

Policy Owner: Chief Academic Officer

Policy Statement:

For international students to be admitted to study at Northwood University they must demonstrate sufficient English. This may be done in one of two ways:

1. Providing documentation demonstrating a student meets the “Waiver of English Proficiency Requirements”
 Students meeting one or more of the following conditions are waived.
 - 1.1 Students who have resided for at least three years within and are citizens of a country where English is the, or one of the, the official languages (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland) as designated in the CIA World Factbook at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2098.html>.
 - 1.2 Graduate school applicants that completed their undergraduate coursework entirely in English.
2. Achieving the required test score on at least one approved language proficiency exams/tests. The scores must be less than two (2) years old. The approved exams/tests and minimum required scores are as follows.

Exam	Minimum Score	
	Undergraduate Programs	Graduate Programs
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
EIKEN	Grade 2A	Grade PRE-1
IB	5 on English A1 or A2 exam	Not accepted for Graduate Admission
Cambridge English Tests	FCE or CAE (minimum score of C1)	CAE or CPE (minimum score of C2)
ELS	Level 112	Level 112
ACT / SAT	ACT – 18 for both composite and reading sub-score SAT – 450 Critical Reading	Not accepted for Graduate Admission

Applicants who cannot demonstrate English proficiency may be admitted conditionally, in which case students will be enrolled in the “Intensive English Program”.

Why the Policy Exists:

English is the language used to teach classes at Northwood University and therefore students need to be proficient in English to be successful. The policy exists to provide students wishing to apply to study at Northwood University with clearly defined English proficiency expectations.



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Applicability:

The policy applies to International Students, including guest students, applying to study at Northwood University's US locations.

Definition of Key Terms:

International Students: Students that are not US citizens.

Guest Students: Guest students are defined as non-degree seeking students.

Intensive English Program: The Intensive English Program is defined as a full-time or part-time program designed for non-English speaking students. The IEP prepares students for success in academic programs by teaching English skills and American classroom culture.

English Proficiency Tests used for admission to U.S. universities and colleges.

TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language

IELTS: International English Language Testing System

STEP EIKEN: Test in Practical English Proficiency (Japan)

Cambridge English Tests

IB: International Baccalaureate exams (undergraduate admission only)

ELS: the ELS Language School Exam

ACT and SAT exams: US nationally used college (undergraduate) admissions examination

Revision Log:

Date	Changes:	Approved By:
2014	Policy created using standardized format incorporating existing requirements included those stated in the Academic Catalog.	Kristin Stehouwer Mamiko Reeves