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. The proficiency exam requirement is waived for students meeting one of the following requirements.
   1.1. Students who are citizens of a country where English is the, or one of, the official languages (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland) as designated in the CIA World Factbook at site below and completed their secondary education in English: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2098.html.
   1.2. Graduate school applicants who completed their undergraduate coursework entirely in English.
   1.3. Proof of successful completion (e.g. high school or baccalaureate degree for minimum of 3 years) at a foreign institution or American school where the language of instruction was completed entirely in English. School can provide a signed letter or official transcript verifying courses were taught in English.
      1.3.1. English as a Foreign Language (EFL) or English as a Second Language (ESL) coursework does not qualify.

2. Achieving the required test score on at least one approved language proficiency exams/tests. The scores must from within the past 24 months at time of application to the University. The approved exams/tests and minimum required scores are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
<td>500 (iTP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>173 (Computer-based)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61 (iBT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>6.0 overall band score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIKEN</td>
<td>Grade 2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB</td>
<td>5 on English A1 or A2 exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge English Tests</td>
<td>FCE or CAE (minimum score of B2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELS</td>
<td>Level 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT / SAT</td>
<td>ACT – 18 for both composite and English sub-score</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAT –940 Overall; 460 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTE Academic</td>
<td>61 (minimum score)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note:
1. The Oxford Assessment is used as an approved exam for admission only for International Program Center locations in China.
2. Students who have completed their entire coursework from one of NU’s strategic partners, in which the instruction has been verified to be English, will not need to provide English proficiency documentation.

Applicants who cannot demonstrate sufficient English proficiency may be admitted conditionally (at the discretion of the University), in which case, students will be issued I-20 for 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 support the success of students whose first language is not English by providing them with clear English proficiency expectations.

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 Student: A guest student is defined as someone who seeks a degree at another institution but takes one or more courses at Northwood University to transfer credits to their home institution. The home institution signs a form stating the coursework would be acceptable to transfer back. Exchange students from partner institutions fall under guest students.
- Non-degree seeking student: Non-degree seeking student is someone who is not intending to earn a degree and take few classes from Northwood University.
- 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
- Oxford Online Placement Test
- IB: International Baccalaureate exams (undergraduate admission only)
- ELS: The ESL Language School Exam
- ACT and SAT exams: US nationally used college (undergraduate) admissions examination
- PTE Academic: Pearson Test of English Academic