

## English Language Proficiency for Graduate Admission Purposes (DRAFT)

<b>SUBJECT:</b> English Language Proficiency Requirement for Admission to Graduate Degree Programs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Policy Number:</b>
	<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>Page 1      Of 1</b>
	<b>Responsible Authority:</b> Provost and VP for Academic Affairs	

DATE(S) OF INITIAL ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE: (tentative): April 1, 2019

### BACKGROUND:

International applicants seeking admission to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) must demonstrate adequate English language proficiency in compliance with Board of Governors [Regulation 6.009](#) (Admission of International Students to State University System). The regulation requires that all methods for determining English language proficiency be clearly outlined in university regulations, and allows the university to determine mechanisms for evaluating English language proficiency.

### APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to the review of graduate degree program applications from **international applicants and other applicants** who are non-native speakers of English.

### DEFINITIONS:

Non-Native English Speaker: An applicant whose native language is not English, or for whom English was not the language of instruction from the primary grades.

International Applicant: International student who seeks admission to the university and who requires a student visa or other non-immigrant temporary immigration status.

English Language-Medium Countries: Countries where English is the native language for a majority of the population, and/or where full curriculum instruction in English begins in the primary grades.

Recognized Post-Secondary Institution: Post-secondary institution equivalent to a regionally accredited institution in the U.S.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Applicants who are non-native speakers of English must demonstrate adequate English language proficiency to be considered for admission into a degree program. English language proficiency will be assessed through one of the following methods:

- University-approved standardized English language proficiency tests commonly used in U.S. university admissions (including, but not limited to, TOEFL and IELTS)
- Successful completion of Level VI in the Academic Track of the Intensive English Institute at FAU

Non-native English speaking applicants are not required to submit proof of English language proficiency if they meet the following criteria:

- Completion of 60+ post-secondary credits or an associate degree or higher (prior to matriculation) from a U.S. regionally accredited postsecondary institution or from a recognized post-secondary institution abroad with full curriculum of instruction in English

## PROCEDURES

Minimum English language proficiency requirements, including the minimum scores for any standardized language proficiency tests such as TOEFL or IELTS, must be published in the University Catalog.

The Center for Global Engagement, the Graduate College, and Graduate Programs are responsible for selecting standardized English language proficiency tests for admission to degree programs. Minimum standardized test scores required for admissions are set by the Graduate College in consultation with graduate programs. Individual graduate programs may require higher proficiency in English scores than the University-wide minimums.

**POLICY APPROVAL**  
(For use by the Office of the President)

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Initiating Authority*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Policies and Procedures  
Review Committee Chair*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*President*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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