



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

## Graduate College

### GRADUATE COLLEGE

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**TO:** Dr. Robert Stackman, Dean of Graduate College

**FROM:** Stephen Steppe, Director of Graduate Admissions

**DATE:** September 23, 2024

**RE:** Proposal to accept verbal GRE score to supplement English Language Proficiency test requirement for Florida Atlantic University.

1) Rationale of the proposal to accept GRE Verbal score

The Graduate College proposes that a score of 150 on the verbal portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) be accepted as sufficient to meet the university's English language proficiency requirement for non-native English-speaking applicants to graduate programs. As the verbal GRE is widely recognized as a standardized measure of academic ability for graduate applicants worldwide, its use has increased post-pandemic as more students register to meet the application requirements of various institutions. By allowing the GRE verbal score to fulfill the English proficiency requirement, the university can offer applicants a more streamlined option, saving them both the cost and time of taking a separate English language test or enrolling in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

Proposed changes:

Non-Native Speakers of English and Students Who Attended Foreign Institutions

**International Evaluation of Foreign Credentials: Official transcripts from all higher education institutions attended in or out of the United States must be sent digitally or mailed directly to FAU from the issuing institution. Please view additional details [HERE](#).**

Must provide evidence of proficiency in English from one of the following tests, reported directly to FAU Graduate College:

- [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL\)](#): The minimum university requirement for TOEFL is 548 (Paper-Based Test) and 79 (Internet-Based Test).
  - FAU's school code for TOEFL is 5229
- [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#): The minimum university requirement for IELTS is a band score of 6.0.
- [Duolingo](#): The minimum university requirement for Duolingo is 110.

- **GRE:** A score of 150 or above on the verbal portion of the GRE.
- Successful completion of Level VI in the Academic Track of the University's [Intensive English Institute](#).

**Exceptions: Non-Native speakers of English are not required to submit proof of English language proficiency if they meet one of the following:**

1. Completion of at least three years of secondary education from a high school based in the United States or abroad with a full curriculum of instruction in English.
2. Completion of at least three years of secondary education from a high school based in a country where English is the majority native-speaking language or English is the primary language of instruction starting in the primary grades.
3. For undergraduate applicants only, completion of at least thirty (30) postsecondary credits, including ENC 1101 and ENC 1102, or the equivalent, with a grade of C or higher, from a U.S. regionally accredited post-secondary institution or from a recognized post-secondary institution abroad with full curriculum of instruction in English.
4. Completion of at least sixty (60) post-secondary credits or an associate degree or higher from a U.S. regionally accredited postsecondary institution or from a recognized post-secondary institution abroad with full curriculum of instruction in English.

**The official FAU regulation on English Language Proficiency can be found here:** [Regulation 4.009](#).