

Clarification/codification of Conditional Admission and Readiness Testing policies for international undergraduates

Susan Carvalho, November 26, 2013 rev. January 6, 2014

These three proposed UK Bulletin changes reflect the semester-long discussions of the Task Force on International Student Success, convened by Susan Carvalho and involving faculty and staff who are closely involved with international undergraduates in the colleges of Agriculture, A&S, Engineering, and Fine Arts, as well as representatives from Enrollment Management and Undergraduate Studies.

The following changes comply with a Department of Homeland Security recommendation that each institution codify the role of its intensive English program, in the admission and enrollment status of international students.

PROPOSAL #1: New section, to be inserted on page 20, in the section entitled **International Applicants** (http://www.uky.edu/sites/www.uky.edu.registrar/files/uga_6.pdf) before the paragraph that begins “*All international applicants must show proof...”:

Undergraduate international applicants who are otherwise admissible, but who have not yet demonstrated English proficiency, may be conditionally admitted to the University of Kentucky. Conditionally admitted students will be academically admitted to UK as full-time degree-seeking undergraduates upon demonstration of English proficiency, as defined below.

Students enrolled in Level 5 or Level 6 of CESL coursework may, upon meeting criteria set forth by the CESL program, enroll for one semester as non-degree seeking students in a pre-matriculation bridge program (half-time enrollment in non-credit CESL coursework and 6-8 hours of credit-bearing undergraduate coursework), constituting full-time enrollment in English preparation for immigration purposes. Completion of the bridge program with grades of A or B in all classes will constitute demonstration of English proficiency for full admission to the University of Kentucky; however, some UK academic colleges and/or majors may require a TOEFL/IELTS score for admission to their programs.

PROPOSAL #2: Revision of the paragraphs on page 20 that begins with “***Students whose native language...” http://www.uky.edu/sites/www.uky.edu.registrar/files/uga_6.pdf

***Students whose native language is other than English must score at least 527 (paper and pen), 197 (computer-based), or 71 (iBT) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to be eligible for general admission to UK. Students may also satisfy the requirement by providing an IELTS score of 6 or better. “Native language” is defined as an individual’s first acquired language and the language of educational instruction. The TOEFL requirement may be waived for students who present an official transcript of satisfactory English work taken at an accredited American college, or a college in another country where English is the native language.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is offered by the Educational Testing Service and may be taken at various test centers throughout the world. Applicants must take the test early enough to ensure that the results are reported to the University by the required deadlines.

For students with marginal scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the English Department Center for English as a Second Language at UK offers an intensive ~~program in English~~ program as a Second Language, designed to ~~improve both oral and written skills.~~ **Successful completion of this program satisfies English language proficiency for admission to UK; however, other conditions for admission must still be met, as outlined above. ~~does not guarantee undergraduate admission.~~** For complete details about the program, ~~write to: Center for English as a Second Language (CESL), 1667 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027, (859) 257-7003.~~ visit <http://esl.as.uky.edu>.

The Office of Undergraduate Admission and University Registrar may require additional documents in order to process an application.

Proposal #3: Clarification that IELTS is a measure of English proficiency that is acceptable in lieu of TOEFL. This is an editorial change on page 19 of the Bulletin (http://www.uky.edu/sites/www.uky.edu.registrar/files/uga_6.pdf), in the section that lists 8 items that are required for international applications. The sixth item in the list currently reads “***TOEFL/English Proficiency,” and refers to a subsequent note marked by ***. This item on page 19 should be changed to:

***TOEFL/IELTS/English proficiency.

Proposal #4: Clarification of readiness testing and APP coursework for international undergraduates: This **new** section should be added to the Bulletin section entitled “Special Academic Programs”, http://www.uky.edu/sites/www.uky.edu.registrar/files/Sp%20Acad%20Prgms_1.pdf. This should be inserted on page 61, in the section entitled “Academic Prep Program (APP)”:

UK Has an APP for English Language for International Students

International students who have an ACT reading subscore below 20 (SAT critical reading below 470), or an ACT English subscore below 18 (SAT writing below 430), a TOEFL score below 100, or any TOEFL subscore below 20, will be automatically registered for English Language Testing upon arrival. Based on the results of those tests, students may be required to enroll in supplemental courses in English, for academic credit, to be taken during their first year as fully enrolled students. Completion of this “ESL APP coursework” may be required before admission to particular academic colleges and/or majors, and additional college-specific or major-specific requirements may apply.

Background information: UK's recovery in enrollment of international undergraduates requires clarification and codification of these pathways:

