

[Received 11/10/06]

TO: Dr. Ernest Yanarella
FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Dean
The Graduate School

The Graduate Council met on March 23 and approved the Policy Changes in requirements for test of English as a second language for international graduate students.

Proposed changes in requirements for test of English as a second language for international graduate students

Graduate Bulletin Spring 2006 Graduate Admissions International Applications

The University of Kentucky requires a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all applicants whose native language is not English. (The equivalent score on the computer version of the TOEFL is 213.). Permanent residents who graduate from US institutions or schools outside the US in English-speaking countries such as Australia , Great Britain , and English-speaking Canadian provinces, are not required to take the TOEFL. Permanent residents who graduate from other institutions outside the US must provide TOEFL scores. Students who cannot obtain a TOEFL Bulletin and registration form locally should write, well in advance, to: Test of English as a Foreign Language, Box 6154 , Princeton , NJ 08541-6154 or see <www.toefl.org> on the Web. Test scores must be sent directly to the University of Kentucky Graduate School from ETS.

Proposed new wording:

The University of Kentucky requires minimum scores on one of two tests of English as a foreign language for admission of international students from all non-English-speaking countries. For the ETS Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum composite scores are: TOEFL iBT: 80 TOEFL previous computer version: 213 TOEFL previous paper version: 550 For the IELTS test (International English Language Testing System) the minimum composite score is 6.5

Permanent residents who graduate from US institutions or schools outside the US in English-speaking countries such as Australia, Great Britain, and English-speaking Canadian provinces, are not required to submit scores. Permanent residents who graduate from other institutions outside the US must provide scores. Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies to the University of Kentucky Graduate School. Their websites are found here: www.toefl.org and www.ielts.org

These changes will go into effect for Fall 2006 admissions. After two years, the graduate School will assess and possibly adjust the score levels on the newly accepted tests.

From: Blackwell, Jeannine
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2006 4:40 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: RE: requested changes in the Minimum ESL scores and ITA procedures
Hi Sheila:

Sorry for the confusion.
The TOEFL iBT has 4 sections with a total of 120 possible points.

For ITAS:
We are proposing a minimum score of 26 on the SPEAKING COMPONENT of the test only. This score will be used for ITA qualification to exempt language screening.

For ALL international applicants:
a COMPOSITE score of 79-80 on the 4 sections of TOEFL iBT will be required.

Please note that we are proposing 6.5 (not 7.0) as the minimum IELTS composite score.

Dr. Jeannine Blackwell, Dean
The Graduate School
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0033
859-257-1759
email: blackwell@uky.edu
website: www.gradschool.uky.edu

From: Brothers, Sheila C
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2006 3:22 PM
To: Blackwell, Jeannine
Subject: FW: requested changes in the Minimum ESL scores and ITA procedures

Good afternoon, Dean Blackwell. I tried calling Brian Jackson about this, but was told he would be out until Friday. I would like to put these two proposals on the Senate Council agenda for Monday, so I would prefer an answer sooner rather than later, if possible. ☺

In his email below (emphasized text), Brian says "that a score of 79-80 is considered equivalent..." In the proposal I received from you (attached, emphasized near the bottom of the first page), however, the proposed TOEFL iBT score is listed as 26.

I do not know enough about these types of scores to make anything even close to an educated guess. Kaveh also was unsure, but wondered if Brian's numbers were percentages, while yours was a true score.

Could you please clarify this for me? I'd appreciate it.

Best regards,

Sheila

Office of the Senate Council
Phone: (859) 257-5872
Fax: (859) 257-8375

From: Jackson, Brian A
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 8:18 AM
To: Tagavi, Kaveh; Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: FW: requested changes in the Minimum ESL scores and ITA procedures

Good morning:

Following up on Dean Blackwell's e-mail, please find below the data supporting our proposed language requirement changes.

Regards,

Brian J.

We are proposing that the minimum acceptable internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score should be 80. This was derived from score comparisons published by ETS. The comparisons between the computer-based TOEFL (CBT) and the iBT scores are based on a field test conducted in 2003-04 of 3,000 test-takers in 30 countries. The comparison between CBT and the paper-based TOEFL (PBT) scores are based on a 1998 concordance study. ***These studies have established that a score of 79-80 on the iBT is considered equivalent*** to our currently acceptable minimum scores of 213 (CBT) and 550 (PBT).

We are proposing that the minimum acceptable IELTS band score should be 6.5. This was based on a review of scores used at benchmark and equivalent institutions. For example;

University of Alabama - 6.5
University of Arkansas - 6.5
University of California, Los Angeles - 7.0
University of Georgia - 6.5
University of Maryland, College Park - 7.0
University of Michigan - 6.5
University of Minnesota - 6.5
University of North Carolina - 6.5
University of South Carolina - 6.5
University of Virginia - 7.0
University of Wisconsin - 7.0
Indiana University - 6.5
Ohio State University 7.0
Purdue University - 6.5

From: Blackwell, Jeannine
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2006 3:03 PM