Additional Standards for Non-Native English Speakers

English Language Proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS)

TOEFL/IELTS

Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date and are considered official only when received directly from the testing agency and are considered official only when received directly from the testing agency.

TOEFL

The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the University is 80 (iBT) or 550 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842.

IELTS

The minimum IELTS score accepted by the University is 6.0.

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC).

- Students whose University of Denver assessment demonstrates they are proficient enough in English to be academically successful, regardless of TOEFL/IELTS scores, may enroll in graduate academic classes full-time.
- Students whose University of Denver assessment demonstrates minor deficiencies and indicates their opportunity for academic success would be enhanced by ELC support may enroll in academic classes full-time and will be placed in an ELC bridge course(s).
- Students whose University of Denver assessment indicates significant levels of deficiency will be placed in an ELC bridge course(s) but may elect to take an appropriate level of English language instruction at the ELC and may be required to reduce their academic course load accordingly.

Students who do not attend the English Language Assessment must contact the ELC to arrange for an assessment in order to be cleared for registration and will incur a $200.00 assessment charge.

English Language Exemption

Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the institution's language of instruction and examination is English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS and the English Language Proficiency Assessment requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations.

Note: Individual graduate programs reserve the right to set higher TOEFL or IELTS test score requirements. Graduate Teaching Assistants have a higher speaking test requirement.

English Conditional Admission (ECA)

In cases where minimum TOEFL/IELTS scores were not achieved or no English proficiency test was taken, graduate units, at their discretion, may offer English Conditional Admission (ECA) to academically qualified non-native English speakers. Such applicants must take training through the University of Denver’s English Language Center to meet the English language requirement. English language training at centers outside of the University of Denver will not be counted toward meeting English language proficiency requirements.

International applicants with a three-year baccalaureate degree cannot be granted English Conditional Admission.

Students who are admitted under the ECA option are not eligible for Graduate Teaching Assistantships until they have met the requirements of the ECA program, met the minimum requirement for GTAs on the speaking section of the TOEFL or IELTS exam, and have been changed to regular status students.

ECA students cannot enroll in any regular degree courses prior to meeting the University’s English requirement. In order to be granted regular status in their graduate degree programs and become eligible to take academic classes, ECA students must meet one of the following requirements:

- Present a departmental qualifying minimum TOEFL or IELTS score and take the English Language Proficiency Assessment or
Additional Standards for Non-Native English Speakers

• Successfully complete intensive English courses through level five at the University’s English Language Center (http://www.du.edu/intl/elc) (ELC) and take the English Language Proficiency Assessment.

Applicants must determine if the department they wish to apply to allows English Conditional Admission. If it does, applicants need to apply for admission to the degree program and indicate that they wish to be considered for ECA.

Students seeking ECA under F-1 or J-1 immigration status must prove their ability to pay for their first year of major/degree studies prior to matriculation even though they will attend the English Language Center (ELC) initially. It is expected that these financial resources will remain available for the duration of the degree program.

Financial aid awards for the degree program cannot be applied to the costs for English language training and additional proof of funding may be requested before the appropriate immigration document can be issued.

If admitted conditionally, the student’s English language proficiency will be tested by the ELC and the student will be placed in the appropriate class level (one through five). Testing for ELC class levels will take place after a student arrives on the University of Denver's campus and prior to the beginning of ELC classes.

Notes: Some units may not accept students under English Conditional Admission and therefore, would not accept ELC completion to meet English language proficiency requirements. Graduate departments may require ELC graduates to submit a TOEFL/IELTS score for admission consideration. Additionally, graduate departments may, at their discretion, require any admitted non-native English speakers to take courses at the English Language Center regardless of his/her TOEFL/IELTS score.

Note: In general, ELC students may not take graduate classes concurrently with their enrollment in ELC. The exception to this is students who are fully admitted to the graduate program and are encouraged to take ELC classes.

Required Tests for GTA Eligibility

TOEFL/IELTS

Any graduate applicant whose native language is not English (including US citizens and permanent residents) and who is from a country where English is not the native language, regardless of his or her educational background or citizenship, who wishes to be considered for any Graduate Teaching Assistantship during any year of study in any graduate department at the University of Denver, must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a minimum of 26 on the Internet Based TOEFL (iBT) exam speaking section or an IELTS score of 8 on the speaking section.

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Students offered a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) position whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) and will need to complete a proficiency assessment designed specifically for GTAs.

Prospective GTAs who are awarded a GTA based on demonstrated fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or an eight (8) on the IELTS speaking section whose University of Denver assessment demonstrates they are not sufficiently proficient may be permitted to hold a GTA position, but must be restricted to non-teaching GTA responsibilities and will be required to enroll in an ELC speaking bridge course for enrichment.

Students may contact the unit and/or the Office of Graduate Studies for additional details.