TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTER

Policy No. 4.06.07

GRADUATE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Tennessee State University requires international students to provide English proficiency scores such as TOEFL and IELTS to demonstrate their language competency to ensure successful progression and degree completion. An applicant whose native language is not English is required to submit a test score of 71 as the minimum acceptance level of performance on the TOEFL-IBT or 6.0 on the IELTS.

In some cases, successful completion of certain levels at accredited English as a Second Language (ESL) programs may serve as proof of language proficiency.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy document is to establish the guidelines whereby successful completion of ESL levels at language teaching organizations shall serve as a proof of language competency and shall satisfy Tennessee State University Graduate School's language requirements for the international students.

DEFINITIONS

Words, definitions and acronyms in this document shall have the following meanings:

- A. ACCET: Accreditation Council for Continuing Education and Training
- B. ACTFL: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- C. CEA: Commission on English Language Program Accreditation
- D. CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- E. Center: Intensive English Center at Tennessee State University
- F. ESL: English as a Second Language
- G. IELTS: International English Language Testing System

- H. School: Graduate School of Tennessee State University
- I. TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language
- J. TSU: Tennessee State University

PROCEDURES

- A. Applications within the scope of this policy shall be evaluated by the TSU Intensive English Center.
- B. The center reviews applications and makes determinations whether to approve proof of language competency or deny application. Students may appeal against the resolution to the Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs.
- C. The center shall review level completion letters, transcripts, certificates and diplomas within the scope of required TOEFL or IELTS scores by TSU.
- D. The center, at its sole discretion, may request further information, documents or letters of support from respective institutions to make its determination.
- E. Students shall submit original copies of the letters, transcripts, certificates and/or diplomas from respective institutions during their application process.
- F. Letters, transcripts, certificates and/or diplomas from respective institutions must indicate alignment of levels with CEFR, ACTFL or other internationally recognized benchmark. Students must have completed an equivalent of CEFR:B2 or ACTFL: Advanced Mid level in their respective institutions in order to be eligible for this policy.
- G. In lieu of the TOEFL or IELTS scores stipulated in this policy, students may submit official academic record of successful completion of all courses of TSU Intensive English Center Level 8 (CEFR:B2).
- H. Only applications from the following institutions will be considered
 - 1. An Intensive English Program housed within a regionally or nationally accredited higher education institution.
 - 2. A third party ESL organization housed within a regionally or nationally accredited higher education institution.
 - 3. An independent/proprietary institution accredited by CEA or ACCET
- I. Students must be full-time students at the respective institution and/or at the TSU Intensive English Center and must have successfully met all requirements of the program.

APPROVAL, VALIDITY AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This policy goes in effect on the day approved by Tennessee State University and is valid until revoked or amended.

This policy is reviewed annually by the Office of International Affairs. Any changes are subject to the approval of Tennessee State University Graduate School.

Updated 7/2020