Admission to the Graduate School

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International Applications

English Language Proficiency

To be considered for admission, international students must present evidence of satisfactory proficiency in the English language as indicated by results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination, or the results of the Pearson Test of English-Academic (PTE-A). The applicant must request that the testing center send the official results to the Graduate School at the University. TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE-A is required of all applicants whose native language is not English. The Graduate School recognizes a number of countries as being English-speaking, and applicants who are citizens of these countries will be exempted from the English proficiency requirement for an application. In addition, evidence that English is an applicant’s “native language” can be determined by the medium of academic study, which is defined as the equivalent of four years of instruction at the secondary or college level where the language of instruction is English. Applicants who have earned a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an institution of higher learning where the medium of instruction is English may be considered for a waiver of the requirement for English language proficiency testing.

- Applicants who submit scores of at least 79 on the TOEFL (ibt), 550 on the TOEFL (pbt), 6 on the IELTS or 53 on the PTE-A may be considered for full standing admission (some graduate programs may require higher scores for consideration for admission).
- Applicants who submit scores between 69-78 on the TOEFL (ibt), 523-549 on the TOEFL (pbt), 5.5-5.99 on the IELTS, or less than 70 on the Michigan English Proficiency Tests are required to take and successfully complete IE 100 (English for Specific Purposes) during the first semester of enrollment. IE 100 must be repeated until satisfactory results are obtained.
- Applicants who submit scores below 69 on the TOEFL (ibt), 523 on the TOEFL (pbt), 5.5 on the IELTS, or 47 on the PTE-A can only be admitted to The University of Mississippi Intensive English Program.
- Students who satisfactorily complete IE 100 must present a score on the institutional TOEFL that is equivalent to the above target score.

Applicants for graduate teaching assistantships whose native language is not English must present acceptable results on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) given at overseas TOEFL centers or The University of Mississippi institutional test of spoken English (SPEAK).

International students with scholar status who desire to enroll in the Graduate School but who do not wish to pursue a degree may be admitted without the required English language proficiency test score. These students will be limited to enrollment as auditing students only. Should a student admitted under this provision later wish to be admitted to a degree program, all admission requirements, including acceptable TOEFL or IELTS scores or the equivalent, must be met. However, no course work taken while an auditing student will be applied in any way to the degree program.