

Conditional Admission Based on English Proficiency

For those applicants who do not have English language scores or who have scores below the minimum of

- a total score of 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT),
- a total score of 550 or equivalent on the paper-based TOEFL (PBT), or
- a 6.5 overall band score on the IELTS

may request conditional admission.

The policy on conditional admission based on English proficiency facilitates the admission of academically qualified, degree-seeking international graduate students who have not satisfied the English certification requirement, yet are being considered for full admission by a graduate program.

Degree-seeking applicants must be recommended by a graduate program for English proficiency conditional admission to UT.

This policy supplements the English Certification policy specifying minimum qualifications for admission of applicants to degree-seeking status at the master's and doctoral levels (see English Certification). Individual graduate programs may in addition have more stringent conditions beyond these standards (see the specific graduate program for details).

This conditional admission policy shifts the timing for the applicant to fulfill the English certification requirement to a date after arriving at UT for intensive English language study. The conditional admission based on English proficiency provides the student with the guarantee of admission to a graduate program once the English proficiency requirement is satisfied. Other requirements prescribed by the program must be completed within the allotted time frame of three semesters, including summer.

Prospective international students should contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for the list of graduate programs that have agreed to consider applicants for conditional admission for English proficiency.

Program/Unit Commitment

English proficiency conditional admission to a graduate program may be granted by the UT Graduate School for a period of one year (three semesters, including summer). Therefore, any graduate program recommending English proficiency conditional admission must commit to

- admitting the student into the program no later than the end of the three semesters specified in the admission letter only if the student has fulfilled the English language requirement and
- any other requirements prescribed by the program.

A program granting conditional admission, based on English proficiency, is obligated to offer admission by the end of the three-semester conditional admission period to the student meeting the requirement(s).

English Language Institute Enrollment

A student admitted conditionally will receive the I-20 to enter the U.S. only for English language study. Upon entry into the U.S., the student will enroll in the University of Tennessee English Language Institute (UT ELI), in order to satisfy the English proficiency requirement by achieving one of the following scores:

- a total score of 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT),
- a total score of 550 or equivalent on the paper-based TOEFL (PBT), or
- a 6.5 overall band score on the IELTS.

The student may not enroll in any other UT course while enrolled in the ELI.

The student may request a waiver from the Graduate School to attend a different U.S.-based and U.S.-accredited intensive English language program.

When the student completes the ELI program and achieves the above stated minimum standards, he/she will be expected to enroll as a degree-seeking student in the admitting UT program starting with the semester immediately following successful completion of the ELI program. The student will have no more than three semesters (including summer) to complete the ELI program and enroll in the UT degree program to which they were conditionally admitted.

Conditional Admission Based on English Proficiency Procedures

- The applicant must submit an online application for admission to the UT Office of Graduate Admissions.
- Graduate programs may request the Office of Graduate Admissions to conditionally admit a student based on English language proficiency.
- Conditional admission can be granted only by the UT Graduate School if the UT ELI has confirmed that it can accommodate the student or if a waiver has been granted to attend a different intensive English language program.
- Once the UT Graduate School and the degree program agree that the student's qualifications warrant conditional admission, an admission letter will be issued by the Office of Graduate Admissions to indicate the English proficiency conditional admission and other requirements to be met within the specified time frame.
- Funding for enrollment in the intensive English language program at ELI is the student's or his/her sponsor's responsibility
- The Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student) will be issued for the ELI program only.
- Upon successful completion of the ELI course and/or program and the appropriate TOEFL or IELTS score, the student will be issued a new Form I-20 by UT Center for Global Engagement for the intended graduate degree program.

NOTE: The student may not enroll in any other UT course while enrolled in the ELI.

Revocation of Conditional Admission Based on English Proficiency

If a student is unable to fulfill the English proficiency condition within the required time frame, admission to the graduate program will be revoked. In this case, the student has the following options:

- Submit a new graduate admission application and, if admitted conditionally, continue studying at UT ELI.
- Leave the U.S.
- Seek a transfer to another school in the U.S.

CIE will advise students in this situation of their options and rights.