To Graduate Council Members: The following talking points were submitted by Dave Sly, the DOGE of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management to preface his discussion with Graduate Council about the standard testing for English language proficiency required of international graduate applicants.   He will be present at the December GC meeting.

TALKING POINTS

Re: Testing for Language Proficiency for Internationals Applying for Graduate School

Submitted by Dave Sly, PE, PhD, MBA
President, Proplanner
Professor of Practice, IMSE Dept, Iowa State Univ
DOGE, Systems Engineering and Engineering Management

Overview:
We have two engineers trying to enroll into our Systems Engineering Online Coursework Only Master's program. These engineers have extensive experience with the English language (from India, many years working in the US).   They are frustrated that they are being required to take the TOEFL exam to establish English Proficiency. This exam is not convenient for them to take, and they think that the fact that they are from India and have extensive US experience that they should be excluded from the exam.

Our Systems Engineering program is trying to appeal to managerial/executive engineers at Deere and Rockwell and we see this as an issue that can be a problem with the many engineers we are encountering who are from India. In particular, a third engineer at Rockwell from India with less US residency was able to skip the exam because he received an MBA from Iowa. This situation created an additional point of frustration with the people I am working with.

The two engineers, detailed below, did take courses as non-degree seeking grad students this Fall and are doing very well in those courses. **Based on the new rules, they are unable to register for their courses this Spring.** I am asking for the committee to allow these engineers to take their Spring courses and then during this Spring that the committee consider revising the policy to allow people from India (or other English proficient countries) with substantial US work experience to be excluded from needing to take the English Requirement exam.

Thanks – Dave Sly, DOGE – Systems Engineering and Engineering Management