### 1.1.2 English Examinations

Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 550 on the paper-based test, or 79 on the internet-based test as a part of the admissions process.

International students may also submit IELTS (International English Language Testing System) scores in lieu of the TOEFL. The ISU Graduate College minimum is 6.5. Individual graduate programs may require higher TOEFL or IELTS scores for admission.

After admission, students whose native language is not English need to meet the Graduate English requirements. (See Chapter 4.4.3 [Graduate English Requirements for Nonnative Speakers of English](https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/handbook/chapter.php?id=4#grad-english-nonnative))

Although the Dean of the Graduate College may exempt applicants from the requirement to demonstrate English proficiency, exemptions are rare and are not made based on a student’s employment experience, time living in a country where the use of English is common, or proficiency as judged by faculty, staff, or admissions committees. Please see section 4.4.3 for additional information on requirements for admitted students who are nonnative speakers of English.

**4.4.3 Graduate English Requirements for Nonnative Speakers of English**

Graduate students whose native language is not English and who do not have a bachelor’s or advanced degree from ISU or a U.S. institution, or do not meet the TOEFL or IELTS exemption score range, must take the English Placement Test at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment. This test is administered by the Department of English. It must be taken in addition to TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), which is taken as part of the admissions process. A student who does not pass this examination is assigned to one or more courses in the English 99 and 101 series. This coursework must be completed during the first year of study.  Registration holds are placed on the student’s account if the student does not register for these classes during the first year of study. (There is a developmental course fee for the English 99 course.)

A graduate student whose native language is not English may be automatically exempted if one of the following is met:

1. Student has received a bachelor’s, master’s, or Ph.D. degree from a U.S. college or university
2. Student has received a bachelor’s, master’s, or Ph.D. degree from an English-speaking university outside of the U.S.  As of 2016, countries outside of the U.S. that ISU considers “English-speaking” are Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, or Australia.
3. Student has a TOEFL score of 600 or above (paper-based TOEFL) or 100 or above (internet-based TOEFL)
4. Student has a score of 7.5 or above on the IELTS
5. Student has a score of 72 or above on the PTE (Pearson Test of English)

Although the Dean of the Graduate College may exempt applicants from the requirement to demonstrate English proficiency, exemptions are rare and are not made based on a student’s employment experience, time living in a country where the use of English is common, or proficiency as judged by faculty, staff, or admissions committees. Please see section 1.1.2 for additional information on requirements for students seeking admissions, who are nonnative speakers of English.