

International Students and TOEFL scores

In past years, several international students have been admitted or conditionally admitted with TOEFL scores below the RIT policy's stated minimum of 550 pbt or 79-80 iBT. All incoming international students then took a battery of English tests when they arrived on campus regardless of their TOEFL scores. This year, following extensive discussions among administrators from Admissions, Student Affairs and the English Language Center, Graduate Studies, Registrar's Office and the Provost's Office, I am implementing the following procedures for incoming international students, effective immediately.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Undergraduates who have a TOEFL of 550 pbt or 79-80 iBT or higher will not be retested at RIT. They will take the same CLA tests as all other admitted students. If, however, faculty identifies any students who are having difficulty speaking or writing in English, please refer them to the English Language Center as soon as possible.
2. Undergraduates with TOEFL scores between 525 and 550 are fully accepted students who will be referred to the English Language Center for testing. The ELC will issue test reports to the students and the department chairs with recommendations for students to take either a full academic load or a reduced load with study at the ELC. The reports will also indicate problems students may have with particular aspects of the language such as writing or listening. This information can be used by advisors in selecting appropriate courses for students.
3. Departments will receive the reports during orientation prior to advising. Students may get the results at the ELC the next day from 9-12 and 1-4. As in the past, it will be up to the academic advisor to determine the student's course load.
4. Undergraduates with lower TOEFL scores pbt or 61-79 on the iBT are conditionally admitted. These students will have a hold placed on their registration by the ELC pending test results. They will be tested at the English Language Center and test reports and recommendations will go to the department and the student. The English Language Center, in discussion with the department chairs, will determine what, if any, courses for credit the students may take. These students will not be expected to carry more than half of an academic course load (6-8 credits).
5. Undergraduates scoring below 499 on the TOEFL are admitted to the English Language Center and will be coded TESL. They may apply for admission to an RIT degree program after they have met the Institute's English language proficiency requirement. When the language requirement has been met, the ELC will send a change of program form to Admissions whereupon Admissions will make the decision to admit or not. If the student is admitted, Admissions will change the code.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Each Graduate department has identified minimal TOEFL scores for accepting students. International students must meet the department's TOEFL score, have it waived by Admissions

for appropriate reasons, or receive a favorable recommendation from the English Language Center.

2. Graduate students who meet their department's required TOEFL score may take the battery of English tests if they wish or if their department requests them to do so. They will no longer be required to take the tests.
3. Graduate students scoring below their department's required TOEFL score must take the battery of English tests at the English Language Center. As in the past, the student and department will receive information from the English Language Center with recommendations for academic course load as well as English classes at the English Language Center.
4. Graduate students who have been admitted with no TOEFL score and who's TOEFL score has not been waived for appropriate reasons by Admissions, must take the battery of English tests at the ELC. Test reports with recommendations will be shared with students and their departments. These recommendations should be followed as in #2 above.
5. Because good communication skills are needed for successful completion of graduate study, students scoring significantly below the department's required scores on TEOFL or who do poorly on the battery of English tests, need to be advised to follow the recommendations of the English Language Center.