

English Waiver Guidelines

Illinois State University

Table 1: Undergraduate Exemptions

	International Year One 2-semester	International Year One 1-semester	Direct Entry
IELTS (including One Skill Retake for IYO)	5.5	6.5	6.5
TOEFL (including MyBest Score for IYO and TOEFL iBT Home edition for all programs)	60	81 (79 thru Spring 2026)	81 (79 thru Spring 2026)
TOEFL Essentials	7	8.5	8.5
New TOEFL (from January 2026)	4	4.5	4.5
PTEA	39 (44 thru Spring 2026)	55 (53 thru Spring 2026)	55 (53 thru Spring 2026)
iTEP Academic	3.5	3.8	
Duolingo English Test	100 (95 thru Spring 2026)	110 (105 thru Spring 2026)	110 (105 thru Spring 2026)
Michigan (MET)	49	58	58
IB	English A Language and Literature (HL) OR English A Language (HL): 4	English A Language and Literature (HL) OR English A Language (HL): 5	English A Language and Literature (HL) OR English A Language (HL): 5
IGCSE/GCSE	English First Language with C (5) or better. Not predicted scores. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		English First Language with C (5) or better. Not predicted scores.
A Levels (A/AS)	English First Language with C or better. Not predicted scores. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		English First Language with C or better. Not predicted scores.
US High School	Attended a US High School for fewer than 2 years without a High School Diploma. Qualifies for 2 Semester IYO	Attended a US High School for 2 years or more or High School Diploma. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO	Attended a US High School for 2 years or more.
US Post-Secondary Institution	Attended a US University for fewer than 2 years without degree. Qualifies for 2 Semester IYO	Attended a US University for 2 years or more or degree. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO	Attended a US University for 2 years or more or degree.
SAT	440 Evidence based Reading and Writing	500 Evidence based Reading and Writing	500 Evidence based Reading and Writing
ACT	16 English and 17 Reading	17 English and 19 Reading	17 English and 19 Reading
HKDSE	English Level 3 or better Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		
Malaysia SPM	English 119 with C or better Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		English 119 with C or better
WAEC	Grade of C5 in English Language		
AP	Language & Composition exam or Literature & Composition exam with 3 or better Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Language & Composition exam or Literature & Composition exam with 3 or better

Singapore Cambridge O-Level	English with C or better. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		
Cambridge English: First, Proficiency, Advanced	162	176	
Gaokao	110	120	120
Completion of Academic English	Level 4		Level 5
US Citizenship	Yes. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
African (Anglophone): Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Yes. High school graduates from these countries where medium of instruction is English Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes. High school graduates from these countries where medium of instruction is English
Commonwealth Caribbean (Anglophone): Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, US Virgin Islands	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
Australia	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
Canada, except Quebec (French)	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
Ireland/Irish Republic	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
New Zealand	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes
United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales)	Yes Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO		Yes

Table 2: Graduate Exemptions

	Graduate Pathway 2-semester	Graduate Pathway 1-semester	Direct Entry
IELTS (including One Skill Retake for pathway)	5.5-6.0 ^	6.5	6.5-7.5^
TOEFL (including MyBest Score for pathway and TOEFL iBT Home edition for all programs)	60-80 ^	81	81-100^
TOEFL Essentials	7	8.5	8.5-11^
New TOEFL (from January 2026)	4	4.5-5.5^	4.5-5.5^
PTEA	39	55	55+^
Duolingo English Test - after 07/15/2019	100	110	110-120^
Michigan (MET)	49	58	58-67^
Completion of Academic English	Level 4		
US Citizenship	Yes. Qualifies for 1 term		Yes
Bachelor's or graduate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. Institution	Yes. Qualifies for 1 term		Yes

<p>Bachelor's or graduate degree from the following countries: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Yes, Completion of bachelor's degree or graduate degree from these countries where medium of instruction is English Qualified for 1 term</p>	<p>Yes, completion of bachelor's degree or graduate degree from these countries where medium of instruction is English</p>
<p>Student's first/native language is English, and they are from one of the following countries: American Samoa, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British West Indies, Canada, England, Guam, Ireland, Mauritius, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Virgin Islands, Wales.</p>	<p>Yes. Qualifies for 1 term</p>	<p>Yes, for Anglophone countries see full list: https://illinoisstate.edu/admissions/international/requirements</p>

[^] depends on the program