POLICY TITLE: TOEFL/IELTS Waiver Proposal

APPLIES TO: Undergraduate International Students

CONTENTS: Proposed Change: Change criteria for TOEFL/IELTS Waiver

Submitted: Jamie Tanzman, Director of the American English Language Program

POLICY STATEMENT:

Students will be admitted to undergraduate programs at Northern Kentucky University based on successful completion of the American English Language Program, which requires completion of level six with at least an 80% in grammar, writing, reading, and listening and speaking classes.

Overview: International students currently are admitted to NKU by showing proof of English proficiency by one of four methods. University and state policy requires them to be placed in developmental courses if they do not meet the cut-off scores on standardized tests such as TOEFL, IELTS, ACT and SAT or enroll with transfer credits that demonstrate proficiency. The policy addition would add completion of the AELP program to the options for admission without deficiencies.

CURRENT POLICY: International students will be admitted to NKU by showing proficiency in English by one of the following means:

1. Submit an official score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) taken within the last two years. The minimum TOEFL scores to be considered for Admission are:

   • Paper Based: 500 (undergraduate) or 550 (post-baccalaureate or graduate)
   • Internet Based: 61 (undergraduate) or 79 (post-baccalaureate or graduate)

2. Submit an official score from the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) taken within the last two years. The minimum IELTS scores to be considered for admission are:

   • Band of 5.5, with a minimum of a 5.0 in Reading and 5.0 in writing.
   • Band of 6.5 for post-baccalaureate and graduate students.

3. Submit a score of 18 or higher in the English portion of the ACT exam, or 430 or higher in the English portion of the SAT exam.

   • ACT: 18 (undergraduate) or 20 (post-baccalaureate)
   • SAT: Writing sub-scores of 430 (undergraduate) or 540 (post-baccalaureate) and a Critical Reading score of 470.
4. Present documentation of having satisfactorily completed Freshman English Composition at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States and have an overall acceptable grade point average.

**PROPOSED POLICY:** 5. Students will be admitted to undergraduate programs at Northern Kentucky University based on successful completion of the American English Language Program, which requires the completion of level six with at least an 80% in grammar, writing, reading, and listening and speaking classes.

**NOTE:** International Students and Scholars want to run this as a pilot experience for four years to track and monitor GPA data, and assess student success and progression.

**Proposed Implementation Date:** 2014-15
Admissions and Academic Policies Committee
Approval Documentation

Policy (Attached): TOEFL/IELTS Waiver
See attached policy.

Date of Committee Approval: May 6, 2014

Approvals:

Committee Chair: J. Patrick Moynahan, Date: 6/23/14

Provost: Sue Ott Rowlands, Date: 7/7/14

Implementation Responsibility: Registrar

Distribution: J. Patrick Moynahan
Sue Ott Rowlands
Marla Herron
Melissa Gorbandt
Joel Robinson
Peter Gitau
Kim Turner
Vicki Berling
Diane Williams
Academic Advising Council
Department Chairs