

## English Language Proficiency Policy

### Graduate & Professional Applicants

A satisfactory command of the English language is required for admission to Pacific University College of Optometry. *All* graduate students whose first language is not English **must meet the English language proficiency requirement** prior to admission. Please note that this requirement applies to all applicants, including resident aliens and citizens.

Requiring valid proof of English language proficiency is a mandate of the Graduate & Professional Programs & Colleges. Thus, only the program or College can approve any exceptions.

TOEFL and IELTS tests must be taken by the second week of January in order to be considered. This allows processing time for immigrations documents as needed.

## Valid Proof of English Language Proficiency

- The minimum required official score on the International Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Pacific Institutional TOEFL, or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam.
  - Test scores are valid for 2 years after the test date.
  - Test score more than two years old will be considered valid *if* the score exceeded the minimum requirement *and* you have maintained continuous residency in the United States since the exam date.
- Completion of a bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or professional degree at an accredited college or university where English is the *only* language of instruction.
  - NOTE: Individuals who are in the process of earning a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution may be admitted to some programs.

### Minimum Test Score Requirements

TOEFL			IELTS
Paper-based	Computer-based	Internet-based	
600 overall Minimum per section: 54-55 reading 55 listening 55 structure/written expression	250 overall Minimum per section: 21 reading 22 listening 22 structure/writing	100 overall minimum per section: 20 reading 21 listening 22 writing 22 speaking	7.0 overall Minimum sub scores per section: 7.0

## Invalid Proof of English Language Proficiency

- Test score less than Pacific's minimum requirement;
- Test score more than two years old (unless you have lived in the United States since the exam date); or
- Institutional TOEFL score from any school except Pacific
- Completion of an English as a Second Language (ESL) program at any school
- Successful completion of English, writing, or literature courses at any college or university
- An associate's degree from a community college in the United States