## International Undergraduate Students:

### English Course Placement Guidelines

International undergraduate students admitted to UB are placed into their first-semester English courses based primarily on standardized English fluency exam scores. The most common test scores that are submitted to International Admissions are scores from either the iBT TOEFL or the IELTS exams.

The table below, and the explanatory notes that follow, should be used as a guide for registering international students for the most appropriate English course. However, it is not always immediately clear where to place certain international students who have unique educational backgrounds or multiple test scores. Please consult with the English Language Institute any time for additional test score interpretation or further placement guidance.

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<th>University Admission: Standard</th>
<th>University Admission: English Required (E100 Student Group)</th>
<th>Bridge Admission</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>iBT TOEFL</strong></td>
<td>Total: 79 – 120</td>
<td>Total: 70-78</td>
<td>Total: 65 – 69</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All sub-sections: 15 or above</td>
<td>All sub-sections: 12 or above</td>
<td>All sub-sections: 10 or above</td>
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<td><strong>IELTS</strong></td>
<td>Total: 6.5 – 9.0</td>
<td>Total: 6.0</td>
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<td>All sub-sections: 6.0 or above</td>
<td>All sub-sections: 5.5 or above</td>
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<td><strong>English Placement</strong></td>
<td>ENG 105 Z</td>
<td>ENG 100 Z and ESL 411 Z (semester following completion of Intensive English Program)</td>
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University Admission: Standard

As a general rule, international students with standard university admission are best advised to register for one of the ENG 105 Z sections. These sections are reserved exclusively for non-native speakers of English, are taught by the ESL professionals in the English Language Institute, and do not assume any significant knowledge of American culture.

International students with very high TOEFL or IELTS scores and who have previously studied at an American high school or college may have the option to register for a non-Z section of ENG 105. It is strongly recommended that eligible students who are considering this option first speak with an ELI Director to discuss in more detail which ENG 105 section is suggested.

International transfer students and those students with SAT or other test scores (and no TOEFL or IELTS scores) should contact an ELI Director to discuss which English course(s) and section(s) are required or suggested.

University Admission: English Required

International students admitted with English requirements must meet the following conditions during their first semester:

A. Students must take both ENG 100 Z (Introduction to Academic Writing) and ESL 411 Z (Spoken English) in their first semester.

B. Students may only register for a maximum of four courses during their first semester (i.e. ENG 100 Z, ESL 411 Z, and two additional courses).

C. Students must achieve a final grade of “C” or better in each English course. If the student receives a final grade of “C-” or below in either English course, the course(s) must be repeated the following semester until a final grade of “C” or better is earned. The four-course limit applies during this period.

D. Students must achieve an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher for all courses taken during their first semester. If a student’s overall GPA at the end of the first semester is below a 2.0, then the four-course limit will apply again the following semester.

In a very limited number of cases, an international student with special or extraordinary circumstances may be allowed to waive part of this English requirement. This can be done only with the permission of an ELI Director.
Bridge Admission

Students accepted to UB with English test scores in the Bridge Admission band are required to complete one semester in the English Language Institute’s full-time non-credit Intensive English Program (IEP) prior to UB matriculation.

After successfully completing one semester in the IEP, students will matriculate with the following conditions:

A. Students must take both ENG 100 Z (Introduction to Academic Writing) and ESL 411 Z (Spoken English) in their first semester.

B. Students may only register for a maximum of four total courses during their first semester at UB (i.e. ENG 100 Z, ESL 411 Z, and two additional courses).

C. Students must achieve a final grade of “C” or better in each English course. If the student receives a final grade of “C-” or below in either English course, the course(s) must be repeated the following semester until a final grade of “C” or better is earned. The four-course limit applies during this period.

D. Students must achieve an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher for all courses taken during their first semester. If a student’s overall GPA at the end of the first semester is below a 2.0, then the four-course limit will apply again the following semester.

For questions about English course placement, or to make an appointment for a student to meet with an ELI Director, please contact the English Language Institute:

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Helpful Links

http://www.ets.org/toefl (iBT information)

https://www.ielts.org (IELTS information)

https://www.buffalo.edu/internationaladmissions.html (UB international admissions information)