

Graduate Admission Policies

1.7. English Language Proficiency

All graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship or residency, must demonstrate proficiency with the English language before they will be considered for admission to a graduate program.*

This requirement may be met by applicants who have:

- Been raised in a recognized country where English is the only official language
- Earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a recognized institution in a recognized country where English is the only official language (Some programs may require a language score even if an applicant meets this requirement)
- Achieved a satisfactory TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System), Duolingo score (see details below) or PTE (Academic) – Pearson Test of English (Academic)

*Applicants meeting either of the first two criteria listed above may need to contact the Graduate School (at ndsu.grad.school@ndsu.edu) to ensure that the test of English proficiency requirement is waived.

English Language Proficiency Tests

Minimum score requirements:

TOEFL: 4 (internet based); 71 on tests taken prior to January 21, 2026

IELTS: 6.0 (academic version)

Duolingo: 105 (internet-based)

PTE Academic: 50 (academic version)

Some programs require higher minimum scores. Refer to the table at the bottom of the page for more information.

How to Submit Test Scores

The Graduate School must receive your official scores before your application will be considered.

- Official TOEFL test scores must be sent electronically to NDSU (institution code 6474). A specific department code is not required.
 - We do not accept MyBest Scores or TOEFL Essentials.
- Official IELTS test scores must be sent from the testing center by mail or electronically to North Dakota State University.
 - The academic version is required. The general training version and One Skill Retakes are not accepted for admission.
- Official Duolingo test scores must be sent electronically to North Dakota State University - Graduate.
- Official PTE test scores must be sent electronically to North Dakota State University – Graduate.

The language test date must be within two years of the date of application to the Graduate School.

Countries Exempt from the English Proficiency Examination Requirement

Antigua and Barbuda	Mauritius
Australia	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Bahamas	New Zealand
Barbados	Nigeria
Bermuda	Saint Lucia
Canada (except Quebec)	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Dominica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Gambia	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Solomon Islands
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)
Ireland	Zambia

Jamaica
Liberia

Zimbabwe

English Language Test Score Requirements for Graduate Teaching Assistants

- See English Language Proficiency Procedure for Graduate Teaching Assistants (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/graduate/assistantship-fellowship/#onefourthreeenglishlanguageproficiencyprocedurefortastext>)

Programs that Require Higher Test Score Minimums for Admission

Graduate Program	Minimum Required Scores
Accountancy	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Agribusiness and Applied Economics	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Applied Statistics	TOEFL ibt 79/4.5; IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 115
Architecture	TOEFL ibt 79/4.5; IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 115
Athletic Training	TOEFL ibt 100/5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 125
Biochemistry	TOEFL iBT 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Biology and Biological Sciences	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Cellular and Molecular Biology	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Chemistry	TOEFL iBT 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Coatings and Polymeric Materials	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Communication	TOEFL ibt 100/5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 130
Computer Science	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Construction Management - M.S.	TOEFL ibT: 81/4, IELTS: 7, Duolingo 120
Construction Management - M.C.M.	TOEFL ibt 79/4.5; IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 115
Criminal Justice	TOEFL ibT 100/5, IELTS 7, Duolingo 130; to qualify for assistantship TOEFL ibT 114/6, IELTS 8, Duolingo 135
Data Science	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Developmental Science	TOEFL ibT 100/5 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7; Duolingo 125
Education	TOEFL iBT 88/4.5, IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 120
Educational Leadership	TOEFL iBT 88/4.5, IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 120
English	TOEFL iBT 100/5 IELTS 7; Duolingo 130
Environmental and Conservation Sciences	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Exercise and Nutrition Science	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP)	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
History	TOEFL iBT 100/5 IELTS 7; Duolingo 130
Human Development and Family Science	TOEFL ibT 100/5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 125
International Agribusiness	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Landscape Architecture	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Microbiology	TOEFL iBT 81/4.5 (Speaking 23, Writing 21); IELTS 7 (Speaking 6, Writing 6); Duolingo 115
Music	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Pharmaceutical Sciences	TOEFL ibT 91/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 120
Plant Pathology	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Psychology	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Rhetoric, Theory and Culture	TOEFL iBT 100/5 IELTS 7; Duolingo 130
Software Engineering	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Software and Security Engineering	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115
Statistics	TOEFL ibt 81/4.5; IELTS 7; Duolingo 115