

AD105 English Language Proficiency Requirements

AD105	Admissions	English Language Proficiency Requirements
Handbooks	Degree Students, Faculty	
Programs	Degree	
	Effective Date	July 2020
	Revised Date	June 2026
	Accountability	Academic Council
Documents/Forms		

Policy Statement

At Western Community College (the College), English is the language of instruction and communication at the College. Access to programs and courses will be limited to applicants who meet established English language proficiency admission criteria.

The College does not administer an ESL test for degree-based programs. ESL proficiency is based on internationally recognized testing criteria and guidelines.

Scope

This policy explains how applicant may demonstrate their English Language proficiency.

English language proficiency requirement

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate English language proficiency in one of the following ways:

- Attain a required score on a recognized English proficiency test within the last 2 years; or
- Successful completion of a minimum of 30 credits of academic post-secondary education at a recognized institution where English is the language of instruction and where the school is located in a country where English is an official language or
- Successful completion of English preparation courses from another institution where students have demonstrated proficiency at an equivalent to the required score on a recognized English proficiency assessment or better; or
- Successful completion of British Columbia English 12 (or equivalent) taken in Canada as part of a high school graduation program with a final overall grade of C or better; or
- Successful completion of a three-credit academic English course from a Canadian post-secondary institution with a minimum grade of C; or
- Graduation from a secondary school and attended for three (3) or more consecutive years of full-time education where English was the language of instruction and where the school is located in a country where English is an official language; or

- Graduation from an eligible international secondary school and attended for four (4) or more consecutive years of full-time education where English was the language of instruction and where the school is located in a country where English is not a primary language; or
- English language proficiency can be demonstrated by meeting the competence level specified for one of the English language proficiency tests listed below. All assessments must include a writing component; or
- A notarized translation of documents is required for admissions in a language other than English. Documentation must be dated within the last two (2) years.

English Language Proficiency Criteria

Assessment	Assessment Description	Required Minimum Competency
CAEL Online	Canadian Academic English Language Assessment	Overall, 70 (with speaking subset of 60)
CELP (General)	Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program	Overall, 7 (with no module less than 7)
CLB	Canadian Language Benchmark	7
CAE	Cambridge CAE	C1
PTE	PTE Academic	58 – 66
IELTS (Academic)	International English Language Testing System	6.5 (with no band less than 6.0)
MET	Michigan English Test	59
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language Paper-Based	550
	Test of English as a Foreign Language IBT	79
IEP	Intensive English Program Certificate	600
DET	Duolingo English Test	110 (No less than 100 in each module)

Applicants who do not meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements may be admitted, subject to the successful completion of the appropriate level of a specified English preparation program. Applicants will not be permitted to start College courses until proof of the required minimum level of English language proficiency is achieved.

List of Countries where English is the primary language

International applicants who graduate from a recognized degree program or show complete four years of full-time study in English at an accredited school in the countries listed below will normally be accepted as meeting the English proficiency requirements.

The following is a list of countries currently recognized as having English as a primary language:

American Samoa	Ghana	Sierra Leone
Anguilla	Gibraltar	Singapore
Antigua & Barbuda	Grenada	South Africa
Australia	Guam	St. Helena
Bahamas	Guyana	St. Kitts & Nevis
Barbados	Ireland	St. Lucia
Bermuda	Jamaica	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Belize	Kenya	Trinidad & Tobago
Botswana	Lesotho	Tanzania
British Virgin Islands	Liberia	Turks & Caicos Islands
Canada (including	Malta	Uganda
Quebec)	Mauritius	United Kingdom
Cayman Islands	Montserrat	USA
Dominica	New	US Virgin Islands
Falkland Islands	Zealand	Zambia
Fiji	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Gambia	Seychelles	