Recommendation of the Admissions & Records Policy Committee to Amend Faculty Document 2425R1: International Student Admissions Policies

Rationale:

MOTION: To allow ESL programs, in collaboration with CIE, and following a specific protocol, to approve for purposes of fulfillment of the English proficiency admissions requirement specific performance levels at institutions requesting such approvals. The protocol for establishing and maintaining such approval will include: 1) Written documentation from the requesting institution outlining, such as entry requirements into the institution, institutional curriculum and student learning outcomes, institutional assessments, pedagogical materials and approaches used in fostering student progress toward desired competencies, instructor and administrator qualifications, institutional accreditations and any other material requested by the Director of ESL programs, or ISSS registration/enrollment officials. 2) The possibility for site visits to the requesting institution, should documentation alone prove insufficient for approval. 3) The creation of a plan for continued review of the relationship, and options for ending or continuing the relationship at regular intervals. Appropriate CIE and ESL staff will determine implementation of this policy, and any substantial departure from this policy would be brought before appropriate governance committees for further approval.

Current language from Faculty Document 2425:

1. Accept successful completion of UWM's ESL Program, with a passing grade after having completed at least eight weeks at the immersion level as equivalent to a score of TOEFL 520 (190 CBT)/IELTS 5.5 for UWM admission purposes. Students successfully completing would not be required to present TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Changed language for Faculty Document 2425:

1. Accept successful completion of UWM's ESL Program, or from an ESL program that meets the approval of UWM ESL and the UWM international Admissions office, with a passing grade after having completed at least eight weeks at the immersion-highest UWM ESL level (or its corresponding level at an approved institution) as equivalent to a score of TOEFL 520 (190 CBT)/IELTS 5.5 for UWM admission purposes. Students successfully completing would not be required to present TOEFL or IELTS scores.
International Student Admissions Policies (Undergraduate Students)

It is proposed to:

1. Accept IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test scores at the undergraduate level as an alternative to TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

2. Raise the undergraduate English proficiency requirement for international student admission from the current level of TOEFL 500 (Paper-Based test), TOEFL 173 (Computer-Based test), to TOEFL 520 (190 CBT)/IELTS 5.5.

3. Accept successful completion of UWM's ESL Program, with a passing grade after having completed at least eight weeks at the immersion level as equivalent to a score of TOEFL 520 (190 CBT)/IELTS 5.5 for UWM admission purposes. Students successfully completing would not be required to present TOEFL or IELTS scores.

4. Allow conditional admission to undergraduate programs for international students who apply to UWM without first having achieved a score of TOEFL 520(190 CBT)/IELTS 5.5. These students would fall into one of the following two categories:

   A. Any student admitted conditionally to an undergraduate program who presents scores below TOEFL 500(173)/IELTS 5.5 (or who does not present one of these scores) would be required to enroll full time in the ESL program. Upon achieving a TOEFL score in the 500(173) to 517(187) range, the student would move to Category B.

   B. Students admitted conditionally to an undergraduate program who present scores of TOEFL 500(173) or more, but less than TOEFL 520(190), would be allowed to enroll in 6 credits in their academic area on condition that they concurrently enroll in the Bridge Course for Dual Enrolled Students. After successfully completing the course with an 80% success rate on all modules, or achieving a TOEFL 520(190)/IELTS 5.5, these students will be eligible for full time academic enrollment.
International Student Admission

UWM's Center for International Education is responsible for the admission of international (non-immigrant) students. In addition, the Center for International Education processes undergraduate applications submitted by U.S. permanent residents with foreign academic work.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online at [http://apply.wisconsin.edu/](http://apply.wisconsin.edu/). Application materials are located on the Center for International Education website at [www.international.uwm.edu](http://www.international.uwm.edu) or can be requested via email to isss@uwm.edu. Prospective students may visit the Center for International Education, located in Garland Hall, Room 138, or write to The Center for International Education, International Student and Scholar Services, Garland Hall 138, P.O. Box 413, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI 53201-0413. Application materials sent via express mail should be addressed to the Center for International Education, ISSS, 2441 E. Hartford Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211. The telephone number is (414) 229-4846.

Students are encouraged to apply a year in advance of the term in which they wish to enroll at UWM. The length of the application process can vary depending on how quickly the applicant provides all required materials to complete the application. The following materials are required to be considered for admission to UWM.

1. A completed and signed application form.
2. An $84 fee ($44 state-required application fee plus a $40 evaluation fee for applicants with non-US academic credentials). These fees cannot be waived, refunded, or applied to any other University fee or bill. Fees are subject to change.
3. Original or officially-certified copies of all grade reports, transcripts, or marks sheets for all secondary and higher studies undertaken, as well as original or officially-certified attested copies of all academic diplomas, certificates, and national or other major examination results. Official records must be submitted in the native language and must be accompanied by an official English translation. Notarized copies are not accepted. Whenever possible, academic records must be sent directly to Center for International Education from the issuing institution.
4. All non-native speakers of English are required to meet the University's English proficiency requirement. Undergraduate applicants must submit an official TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) score that meets the minimum requirements below, or an assessment from a pre-approved UWM partner institution. Test scores must be received directly from the testing service and must be no more than two years old. TOEFL: 520 (paper based); 68 (internet based). IELTS: 5.5.

You can be admitted to UWM if you do not meet the minimum English proficiency requirements. There are two different types of admission with English deficiency:

**Conditional Admission:** If you did not take the TOEFL or IELTS or received a TOEFL score of less than 500 (paper-based)/61 (internet-based) or an IELTS score below 5.0, you can be conditionally admitted to UWM. You will then be required to satisfy one of the following requirements prior to becoming eligible to enroll in academic courses:

1. Submit a TOEFL score of 520 (paper-based)/68 (internet-based) or an IELTS score of at least 5.5.
2. Successful completion of the UWM ESL’s highest level Immersion program with a grade of B or higher.

**Dual Admission:** If you received a TOEFL score between 500 and 519 (paper-based)/61-67 (internet-based) or an IELTS score of 5.0, you will be admitted to UWM, but you will only be allowed to register for part-time academic courses (maximum of 6 credits). You must also complete a part-time ESL course, specially designed for dual admission students, to meet the minimum English proficiency requirements. Successful completion of this course with a score of 80% or better in all modules, will allow you to become a full time student, without requiring you to re-take the TOEFL or IELTS exam.

5. Additional departmental requirements may apply. Please contact the International Student and Scholar Services office for more details.
6. International students who require an F or J visa must submit proof that they have adequate financial support to live and study full-time at UWM. Updated financial figures can be found at [www.international.uwm.edu](http://www.international.uwm.edu). Financial verification is required before the University will issue the U.S. government form (Form I-20 or DS-2019) necessary to obtain a foreign student visa or to transfer from another U.S. institution.