

Questions and Answers about CESL's English Language Endorsement. Below are some common questions asked about CESL Endorsement and answers to those questions.

What is endorsement?

Endorsement is a portfolio of a University Track student's work over the course of a session, and (<http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/endorsement>) is one way to fulfill the University of Arizona English language requirement for international students (see <http://admissions.arizona.edu/international/frequently-asked-questions> for other ways to fulfill the English requirement).

How is it different from getting a TOEFL or IELTS score?

For many students, reaching one of the required scores for the TOEFL or IELTS test may be extremely difficult. However, in many cases, students who haven't been able to get the score they need may still be proficient enough in English to study at the university. For those students, endorsement is a good alternative way to fulfill the university requirement.

What are the current required scores for the TOEFL or IELTS test at the University of Arizona?

| | Undergraduate | Graduate |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TOEFL IBT | 70 | 79 (most departments) |
| IELTS | 6.0 average score | 7.0 average score (most departments) |

What do you mean by 'most departments' for graduate endorsement?

Some departments require higher scores on these tests for international students for entry to the program. Other programs may let you enter the university or enter into a 'pre' portion of their program, but may not grant full entry into the program until you get the TOEFL or IELTS score they require; however, MANY programs accept endorsement as a way to fulfill the English requirement for full entry.

So, how do I know what the score needs to be?

Check with the department where you intend to study to see if there's a different requirement. In most cases, the requirement is what you see listed above.

Do I need to take the TOEFL IBT or IELTS test if I plan to try for endorsement?

We encourage all students to try the TOEFL IBT or IELTS test. If you are applying for endorsement, it often means you haven't gotten one of the scores the university asks for on the TOEFL or IELTS test. However, the Endorsement Committee prefers to see that you have tried one of these tests. You should submit your best score on the TOEFL IBT or IELTS test from the last 6 months. If you cannot produce a score, you can still apply for endorsement. Talk to the IEP coordinator if you have questions.

Is there a minimum TOEFL/IELTS score to apply for endorsement?

No, but if your score is well below the university's benchmark scores, you should be realistic about your English abilities and understand that you probably need to study English longer before you enter the university. TOEFL and IELTS scores are not part of endorsement.

What is the Endorsement Committee?

The Endorsement Committee is composed of 2-3 faculty members from CESL and CESL's Director, Dr. Suzanne Panferov. They review grades for endorsement applications.

What else does the Endorsement Committee consider when deciding who should get CESL's endorsement?

- The Endorsement Committee looks at the following for **undergraduate endorsement decisions**:
 - o B or better in all classes. Your grades should be good, mostly A's and B's. Students with low grades do not get endorsement. Grades are by far the most important factor in endorsement decisions.
- The Endorsement Committee looks at the items above for **graduate endorsement decisions, plus**:
 - o An interview. You will sit in an interview where you discuss your field of study. You are scored based on your language proficiency.
 - o A timed writing. You will write an essay about your future studies and be scored based on the sophistication of your writing.
 - o Teacher recommendations. Your teachers will submit feedback forms in which they give the endorsement committee a qualitative, narrative description of how you performed in their classes.

How do I apply, and when should I apply?

Fill out the endorsement application online: <http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/endorsement>. You will then submit the application and the \$25 application fee (\$50 for graduate application) to office 101. Steve will instruct you on what you need to submit to him and answer any other questions you might have. He will also initial your application sheet to show that you have spoken with him about the process. **THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS THE END OF WEEK 5 OF THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE IEP!**

When do I find out? What happens then?

Endorsement decisions are **always** made on the very last day of the session. If you receive endorsement, you will get a copy of the letter by email and so will the undergraduate or graduate admissions department. Your I-20 will also be transferred to the university. If you do not receive endorsement, you will receive a letter stating this as well. If you are denied endorsement, you should make plans to continue studying at CESL, or to transfer to another institution. If you don't get endorsement, you can apply again if you continue studying full-time at CESL. **You must be in the University Track and a full-time student to receive endorsement.**

What if I get either the TOEFL or IELTS score I need to enter after I apply for endorsement?

If you get the TOEFL or IELTS score required by the university during the session, you should let the IEP Coordinator know and withdraw your endorsement application. You cannot get both endorsement and a TOEFL or IELTS score for entry into the university. You don't need both! The application fee for your endorsement application is non-refundable.

Can I appeal the decision if I don't receive endorsement?

All endorsement decisions are final, and cannot be appealed.

Can an endorsement be used at another university?

Endorsement is only for the University of Arizona.

Any other questions not already answered here? Email Steve Randall at randall@email.arizona.edu 😊