English Language Endorsement Approval for Graduate Departments

To Whom It May Concern:

As you may know, international students seeking admission into the University of Arizona have to fulfill an English language requirement. This is often achieved by attaining one of the university benchmark scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination. The typical benchmark scores for these examinations at the graduate level are currently as follows:

Graduate Admission

• TOEFL internet test (IBT) – 79, or IELTS composite score – 7

In 2005, the University of Arizona Graduate Council voted to approve CESL Endorsement as another option for students to fulfill the English language requirement for admission. When students apply for CESL Endorsement, a committee of ESL professionals carefully considers each application, which includes:

• The student’s grades. Students who receive endorsement typically have all A or B grades in their courses, and high GPA’s.

• The student’s English proficiency. All grad school applicants are required to complete an English proficiency test. At CESL we use the International Test of English Proficiency (iTEP). This is an internationally recognized proficiency test lasting 90 minutes, and assesses student’s skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and Grammar.

• Instructor feedback. Each of the student’s instructors submits a feedback form indicating their overall impression of the student’s English abilities based on 8-10 weeks of instructional contact with the student, as well as their assessment of the student’s ability to succeed in the level for which they are applying (in this case, the graduate level).

Students may only apply for endorsement once they are in one of CESL’s advanced levels. CESL Endorsement allows such students to fulfill the English language requirement through a comprehensive, data-driven decision based on the candidate’s performance in over 180 hours of instruction in their classes, and their performance on an external English proficiency test (iTEP).

Because all graduate departments have different admissions requirements, you are being given this form so that the student presenting it knows that CESL Endorsement will be accepted by your department to fulfill the English language requirement for admission if CESL decides to endorse the student.

Of course, your department retains full rights to evaluate the candidate’s academic readiness for full admission. If you have an application for a student who already does meet all of your academic admissions requirements except English, you may conditionally admit the student. The student would then study at CESL (tuition paid by the student or his/her sponsor) until s/he can fulfill the English requirement, either through CESL Endorsement or by attaining one of the exam benchmark scores mentioned above. Typically, conditional admission is good for only one year.

Please fill out the information below and give it back to the student. I encourage you to make a copy for your own records as well. If you would like more information about CESL’s English Language Endorsement, please visit http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/endorsement. You can also contact Dr. Eddy White at ewhite3@email.arizona.edu (621-6592) or Amber Tetreau-Segura at amts@email.arizona.edu (621-2698) with questions. Thank you,

Dr. Suzanne Panferov, Director of CESL
CESL Student Name: _____________________________

Department Graduate Advisor Name (printed): ________________________________________

Title: ___________________________

Department Graduate Advisor Signature: _________________________________________

Date: ______________________

Phone number: ______________________________

Email address: _____________________________

Graduate Department    Program    Degree sought?
____________________________  ________________________  _____________

Will your department accept CESL’s English Language Endorsement? (circle one)

- Yes
- No (If no, please briefly explain why.)

CESL’s Proficiency System. The table below explains the general level of proficiency students must attain to receive CESL’s endorsement. These are the proficiency levels that have been agreed upon by the Graduate College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Speaking</th>
<th>In Listening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student is able to communicate clearly and effectively with no effort. The student is also able to give lengthy professional presentations and respond to domain specific questions or criticism. The student can express complex concepts using sophisticated vocabulary. The student speaks with an accent that does not interfere with comprehensibility.</td>
<td>The student is able to demonstrate near-native comprehension of extended academic lecturers, discussion, and full-length media by performing the following tasks: synthesizing concepts from multiple sources; responding critically</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Writing</th>
<th>In Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student is able to produce short, well-developed papers using multiple sources. The student demonstrates ability to research and integrate appropriate supporting material into an extended paper based on either an expository or a persuasive format. The student demonstrates the ability to use formal academic citations. The student demonstrates very good control of most grammatical structures in English.</td>
<td>The student demonstrates near-native comprehension through analysis, inference, paraphrasing, drawing conclusions, and responding critically in writing. The student can comprehend sophisticated expressions and precise vocabulary. The student is able to determine register, tone, and style from vocabulary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next steps: Once the student has received notification of receiving endorsement, the CESL Student Services Office will send notification to the Graduate College. If the student is not endorsed, s/he will either continue to study at CESL and apply again for endorsement, or retake either the TOEFL or IELTS exam.