



College of Arts & Sciences

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Graduate Admissions English Language Policy

To empower students to be successful, both during their academic journey at Lehigh University as well as during their future careers, the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) requires all applicants to demonstrate proficiency in English.

The College offers multiple paths to demonstrate English language proficiency:

1. *English Language Testing*

Test scores are valid for two years and must be valid until an I-20 is issued.

We review applications with unofficial scores; however, official test scores must be submitted from the testing agencies directly and will be required for matriculation into Lehigh.

Program minimums	TOEFL	IELTS	DuoLingo	Cambridge	Pearson Test of English*
BIOS, CHEM, EES, EP, HIST, MATH, PHYS, POLS, PSYC	Reading: 21 Listening: 15 Speaking: 24 Writing: 25 Composite: 85	Reading: 6.5 Listening: 6 Speaking: 7.5 Writing: 6.5 Composite: 6.5	Overall: 115	Overall: 185 169 or above on each skill	Overall: 68 53 or above on each band
ENGL	Reading: 26 Listening: 20 Speaking: 24 Writing: 26 Composite: 96	Reading: 7.5 Listening: 6.5 Speaking: 7.5 Writing: 7 Composite: 7.0	Overall: 125	Overall: 190 169 or above on each skill	Overall: 68 53 or above on each band

*Pearson is not accepted for 2026 admission. It will be accepted beginning in 2027.

2. *Alternative Paths to Demonstrate English Language Proficiency*

For admissions purposes, the College does not require language test scores from applicants who meet one of the following criteria:

1. Speak English *and* are a citizen or permanent resident of a country where [English is an official language](#) (including: United States of America, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Botswana, Canada, Cayman Island, Dominica, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Montserrat, Pakistan, Republic of Ireland, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Scotland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, Uganda, Wales).
2. At the time of enrollment at Lehigh, will have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university located in the U.S. (Please note that you must have been physically present in the U.S. for the majority of your enrollment, a minimum of 2 consecutive years.)
3. At the time of enrollment at Lehigh, will have earned the international equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from a college or university located in a country where [English is an official language](#), *and* where English is the language of instruction (including United States of America, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Botswana, Canada, Cayman Island, Dominica, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Montserrat, Pakistan, Republic of Ireland, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Scotland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, Uganda, Wales). The medium of instruction must be indicated on the transcript or easily verified on the institution's website. (Please note that you must have been physically present in the country of study for a minimum of 2 consecutive years.)
4. At the time of enrollment at Lehigh, will have studied and/or worked full-time for at least 2 consecutive years* within the last 5 years in a country where [English is an official and widely spoken language](#). This experience must be noted on a transcript and/or described on a resume or CV. We will accept a combination of study and work—e.g., an applicant who completed a 1-year master's degree in the U.S. followed by 1 year of OPT. If you are or were a student, the full-time study must have been for at least 2 consecutive academic years AND English must have been the language of instruction for your studies. (Please note that you must have been physically present in the country of study for a minimum of 2 consecutive years.)

Students in doctoral degrees or research master's degree programs who are appointed as teaching assistants (TAs) may require additional assessment to be certified as proficient in English prior to assuming instructional duties, pursuant to the [Pennsylvania Act 76, "English Fluency in Higher Education" \(1990\)](#). The [International Center for Academic & Professional English \(ICAPE\)](#) is responsible for evaluating and assessing all GTAs at

Lehigh University, regardless of national citizens or cultural and linguistic background. Students may be asked to complete an [English Language assessment](#), through ICAPE. Students who do not pass this assessment may be asked to complete coursework or tutoring to meet the applicable English proficiency standards to be a TA.