

CERTIFYING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (TOEFL, IELTS, and TSE)

Much of your success in graduate study in the United States will depend on your ability to understand, read, write and speak English. If English is not your native language, evidence of proficiency in its use will be decisive in reviewing your application for admission.

Applicants whose native language is not English must certify their proficiency in the English language in ONE of the following three ways:

- Providing official scores for the TOEFL or IELTS exam AND the Test of Spoken English (TSE). These tests must be taken no more than two years before the intended quarter of entry. For the TOEFL, an applicant must score 600 or higher on the paper-based test (PBT), 250 or higher on the computer-based test (CBT), and 100 or higher on the internet-based test (iBT). For the IELTS, an applicant must score 7.0 or higher. For the TSE, applicants must have a minimum score of 50. (See descriptions of these terms below.)
- Providing official transcripts verifying an undergraduate degree from an accredited four-year institution or equivalent, where the language of instruction is English.
- Providing official transcripts verifying a graduate degree from an accredited institution where the language of instruction is English.

Official scores must be less than two years old. TOEFL results must come directly from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Personal copies are not considered official, nor are "attested" or notarized copies. However, it is to your advantage to include a paper copy of your score report in your application materials. This will aid us in verifying your scores quickly, should there be any delay in receiving the official report, and to identify any errors in the electronic report.

The institutional code assigned to The Northwestern University Master of Science in Learning & Organizational Change Program is 2591.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The TOEFL is given at test centers throughout the world, including locations within the United States. For more information, write TOEFL, PO Box 6151, Princeton NJ 08541-6151, USA (telephone 609/771-7100, e-mail: toefl@ets.org) or access www.toefl.org online.

International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) Examination

The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) examination is designed to assess the language ability of applicants who need to study where English is the language of communication. The IELTS examination is offered as an alternative to the TOEFL exam. Applicants need not submit the results of both. The minimum overall band score for admission is 7.0. The minimum score in each of the four sections, Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking, is 6.5.

The IELTS exam is given at over 270 centers located throughout the world. A full list of the test centers is available on the IELTS Web site, <http://www.ielts.org/>. Test centers run regular administrations, according to local need, and the results are available within two weeks. Test takers must request that test results be sent directly to the Northwestern University. There is no institutional code assigned. Personal copies are not considered official, nor are "attested" or notarized copies.

Test takers are not allowed to repeat the test within 90 days at any center. Applicants are required to take the Academic Test Format only. All information on the availability of the IELTS at the site nearest you can be found on the Web site listed above. To register to take the test, you will need to interact with the chosen test site directly.

Test of Spoken English (TSE)

The Test of Spoken English (TSE) is, in the words of Educational Testing Service (ETS), a test of speaking ability designed to evaluate the oral language proficiency of non-native speakers of English who are at or beyond the postsecondary level of education. ... [When] used in conjunction with other measures, it can help provide an indication of the examinee's ability to successfully communicate in English in an academic or professional setting. (ETS, cited in Powers et al., 1999, p. 400) For more information, write to: TSE Program Office, PO Box 6152, Princeton NJ 08541-6152, USA or e-mail ETS at etsinfo@ets.org.