

# Proof of English Proficiency for Admission to the International Student Program at San Mateo Colleges

(Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College)

College placement test required upon arrival at the College, students will take the English or English as a Second Language and Math placement test. The Placement Test determines course eligibility for English, ESL, and Math classes and any courses that have an English or math prerequisite.

## **Applicants can demonstrate English proficiency by fulfilling one of the following criteria:**

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)  
Information about TOEFL is available at <http://www.toefl.org>
  - A minimum qualifying score on the iBT TOEFL is 56 (iBT is Internet-based TOEFL)
  - A minimum qualifying score on the pencil & paper TOEFL is 480, with no sectional scores below 48
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic  
Information about the IELTS is available at <http://www.ielts.org>
  - A minimum qualifying level of Band 5.5
- Pearson PTE Academic <http://pearsonpte.com/PTEAcademic/Pages/home.aspx>
  - A minimum qualifying score of 42
- Completed a specified level or higher at the following partner English Language Schools:
  - **AAE (American Academy of English):** Advanced Level or the University Readiness Program
  - **Century School of Languages:** Level 6
  - **Columbia West College:** Standard ESL Program Level V
  - **ELS Language Centers:** Level 109
  - **FLS International:** Level 7
  - **Golden Gate Language Schools:** Level 12
  - **Kaplan International:** Higher Intermediate Level
  - **ILSC (International Language Schools of Canada):** Academic Preparation Level 14
  - **Intrax:** Level 9
  - **Language Pacifica:** Level 5
  - **St. Giles International:** Level 5
  - **TALK School of Languages:** Level 9
  - **The Language Company (TLC) Berkeley:** Level 9
- Certification of completion of the highest level from any accredited U.S. intensive English language school.

## **Other**

1. **Secondary Education:** Earned a high school diploma, or studied for a minimum of 2 years and attained a grade of "C" or better in English in one of the English speaking countries (U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand).
  - a. Nordic institutions: Gymnasium English B and received grades of "VG" or "MVG".
  - b. For Sweden, a new grading system was implemented in 2014: "VG" = "C" and "MVG" = "A/B". Also, English B = English 6.
  - c. Singapore: Completed all years of study in Singapore schools. Completion of secondary school only will require a TOEFL or IELTS score.
2. **International School:** Earned a high school diploma in an International School or similar, where English is the primary language of instruction. You must submit high school transcripts and other documentation, such as a letter on school's letterhead, stating that English was the primary language of instruction.
3. Completed advanced level ESL or college-level English classes at a U.S. college or university. You must provide an official transcript to receive this waiver.
4. Received a degree from a college or university in the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia or New Zealand. You must provide an official transcript to receive this waiver.
5. Are a resident of and completed all years of study in a country (not listed above) whose official language is English.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Change of Visa Status student (J-1 to F-1) may consult with the International Program Office for additional options.