Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy on English Language Proficiency for International Undergraduate Admission

All international applicants for undergraduate admissions must, except in rare circumstances, submit English proficiency test scores that meet the University’s minimum requirement for admission. Avenues for providing proof of an acceptable minimum level of English language proficiency are as follows:

International students who submit test scores that do not meet the minimum requirement for admission are not routinely admissible. To remedy this deficiency, they should first work to improve their English skills and then retake the TOEFL or IELTS examinations to achieve acceptable test score levels. A complete policy description is at http://admit.washington.edu/Requirements/International/English/Proficiency.

If exceptional circumstances prohibit an applicant from achieving the minimum score on an accepted examination (see policy above), the applicant may petition to be considered for admission on the basis of an alternative UW assessment. If the petition is approved, the student would be subject to an assessment process conducted by the UW Educational Outreach English Language Programs. If the determination of the English Language Programs is that the individual is (with adequate support) capable of matriculation at the UW, the program will identify the AEP or IEP coursework requirements needed to bring the applicants English language skills up to the required level. (Note: The UW will not absorb the cost of the alternative assessment process. The costs for travel and assessment must be covered either by the applicant or other sources, e.g., UW Athletic Program funding).

Continued enrollment at the University of Washington by such specially admitted students requires enrollment in and successful completion of all AEP, IEP, or other coursework identified via the alternative UW assessment.

International students who are recruited student athletes and who are approved for admission with a TOEFL, IELTS, or other score below the minimum admission requirement must be counted as a “student athlete special admit”.

Adopted by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on February 4, 2011.