

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

August 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services

RE: Proposal to Change the Policy on “Minimum Scores for Provisional
Admission” for Undergraduate International Student Admission

This request to change the policy on “Minimum Scores for Provisional Admission” is to clarify the time duration for international students to demonstrate English language proficiency and, based on this proficiency, to have their status changed from provisional to regular status.

Current policy states that students have one calendar year to attain the proficiency needed to have their status changed from provisional to regular. This request is to change the policy from one calendar year to three consecutive semesters with the option to exclude summer.



For example, an international student who is granted provisional admission for a fall semester will be able to enroll in English as a Second Language courses at the English Language Center in fall, spring, and summer OR fall, spring and the following fall to pursue demonstration of English language proficiency.

Current Academic Programs Catalog Language

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=110#s223>

International applicants who have acceptable academic credentials may be admitted to Michigan State University on a provisional basis with scores between 450 and 549 (paper version), 133 and 212 (computer version) or 45-78 (Internet version) on the TOEFL; or between 60 and 79 on the MSUFLT.

Provisionally admitted students may take classes at the English Language Center, and restrictions are placed on the number of academic courses that they may take. Any international student admitted provisionally because of an English language deficiency must correct the deficiency within one calendar year in order to remain enrolled.

Recommended Academic Programs Catalog Language

International applicants who have acceptable academic credentials may be admitted to Michigan State University on a provisional basis with scores between 450 and 549 (paper version) or 45 and 78 (Internet version) on the TOEFL; between 5.0 and 6.0 on the IELTS or between 60 and 79 on the MSUFLT.

Provisionally admitted students may take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at the English Language Center, and restrictions are placed on the number of academic courses that they may take. In order to remain enrolled, any international student admitted provisionally because of an English language deficiency must reach English language proficiency within three (3) consecutive semesters of enrollment in appropriate English as a Second Language (ESL) courses (Summer may be excluded) or demonstrate consistent progress in English language proficiency as determined by the Director of the English Language Center.

Students enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses who wish to test out of additional English language courses may submit official evidence of English language proficiency as noted in the [Minimum Requirements for Regular Admission](#). In order to have the official score accepted as evidence of English language proficiency, students must also complete their current ESL enrollment successfully. Official scores of English language proficiency received after the first day of classes in any semester will not be reviewed until the student's current ESL enrollment is completed successfully.

Rationale

Students taking ESL courses will periodically stop attending class and/or will focus only on studying for the TOEFL exam, knowing that if they do well they may waive the English language requirement. This change would, at a minimum, require them to engage actively in the ESL course in which they are enrolled and demonstrate their ability to be successful.

If this proposal is approved, the Office of Admissions Web site will be changed. Below is current text and recommended text for that Web site.

Current Language Admissions Site

(http://admissions.msu.edu/admission/international_provisionalAdmission.asp)

“MSU offers provisional admission to applicants who meet the academic and financial requirements but whose [English language proficiency](#) does not meet the levels required for regular admission.

Provisional status will continue until the [minimum language proficiency](#) (regular admission proficiency) is attained; however, the language proficiency must be reached within one calendar year in order to remain enrolled. Provisionally admitted students must take the MSU English Language Test (MSU-ELT) upon arrival at MSU to assess their need for additional language instruction at the [English Language Center \(ELC\)](#).”

Recommended Language Admissions Site

“MSU offers provisional admission to applicants who meet the academic and financial requirements but whose English language proficiency does not meet the levels required for regular admission.

Provisional status will continue until the minimum language proficiency ([Minimum Requirement for Regular Admission](#)) is attained; however, students must reach English language proficiency within three (3) consecutive semesters of enrollment in appropriate English as a Second Language (ESL) courses (Summer may be excluded) or demonstrate consistent progress in English language as determined by the Director of the English Language Center in order to remain enrolled. Provisionally admitted students must take the MSU English Language Test (MSU-ELT) upon arrival at MSU to assess their need for additional language instruction at the [English Language Center](#).

Rationale

Students admitted in the Fall occasionally take two semesters of ESL courses and return home for the summer. Upon return, they may be tested using the MSU-ELT to ascertain their English language proficiency at that time. If they do not earn an acceptable score they can be dismissed because they have now not demonstrated English language proficiency in one calendar year. We have had students return to campus at the beginning of their second Fall semester only to learn that they must return home because their English language is not adequate. The new language clarifies that the requirement is three consecutive semesters which may or may not include summer and it gives the Director of the English Language Center discretion when the student has demonstrated progress but, may not yet have demonstrated proficiency successfully.