Policy Recommendation

Rescind F75-6, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Requirement for Resident Alien Students

Legislative History: The Academic Senate at its meeting of November 24, 1975, passed F75-6 as a resolution on the TOEFL requirement for applicants who were neither citizens educated in the U.S. nor “foreign” students. The specific student group targeted in this policy was called “Resident Aliens,” i.e., permanent residents granted an immigration visa. They did not fall into either the category of citizens educated in the U.S. or international students and were thus exempt by default from the admission requirements applied to these two groups. Because a permanent resident was not required to present evidence of English proficiency, such a student was often admitted to the University without proof of adequate language skills to succeed in their academic program. Therefore, it was resolved that permanent residents who graduated from a “foreign” high school be required to achieve a minimum score of 500 on the TOEFL and further resolved that this requirement may be waived in the Admissions Office if the applicant met certain well defined criteria indicating English language proficiency.

In the course of the Organization and Government Policy Committee’s review of senate policies during Fall 2017, the Instruction and Student Affairs Policy Committee was tasked with reviewing and updating F75-6 in accordance with current University policies and practices.

Whereas: The language in F75-6 is outdated, and
Whereas: This policy was specific to permanent residents only, and
Whereas: This policy makes reference to citizenship status which is irrelevant, and
Whereas: This policy does not mention any English Proficiency Tests other than TOEFL, and
Whereas: This policy does not concur with Sections 40752.1, 40802.1, and 41040 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations specifying the CSU English language requirements for applicants or Executive Order 975: Policy Governing the English Language Examination (https://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-975.html), and therefore be it

Resolved That University Policy F75-6 be rescinded and replaced with the following.
English Language Proficiency Requirement for SJSU applicants

This policy is driven by the following principals:

- Having a strong understanding of the English language is important for success at SJSU;
- It is important to demonstrate evidence of language proficiency prior to being admitted into the University; and
- All interfaces should have consistent language, including all University promotional material, informational literature and websites;

Undergraduate Students:

The following undergraduate applicants (including transfer applicants) are required to submit a score of 500 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions:

- who have graduated from a secondary or high school in a country where English is not the primary language;
- who have not attended school at the secondary level or above for at least 3 years full time where English is the principal language of instruction;

Some majors may require a score higher than the campus minimum. Alternative methods, such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Pearson Test of English (PTE), or other comparable tests assessing English fluency may also be used.

Post-baccalaureate and Graduate Students:

The following post-baccalaureate or graduate applicants are required to submit a score of 550 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

- who come from a country where English is not the primary language;
- who do not possess a baccalaureate degree from a post-secondary institution where English is the principal language of instruction;

Some majors may require a score higher than the campus minimum. Alternative methods, such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Pearson Test of English (PTE), or other comparable tests assessing English fluency may also be used.

This requirement may be waived in the Offices of Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions if the applicant meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The applicant has completed three years or more of study at a secondary or high school in the U.S.
2. The applicant has completed 60 semester/90 quarter transferable units at an accredited college or university in the U.S.

3. The applicant has studied full-time at a U.S. college or university for at least three years.

4. The department chair requests that a waiver be granted after consultation with the College of Professional and Global Education to assess English language proficiency.