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 Test of English as a Foreign Language (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Whereas: The language in F75-6 is outdated, and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Resolved  That University Policy F75-6 be rescinded and replaced with the following.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 Student Admissions**

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 information, including all University promotional material, informational literature, and websites;

**Undergraduate Students:**

Applicants who have graduated from a secondary or high school in a country where English is not the primary language or who have not attended school at the secondary level or beyond for at least three years full time where English is the principal language of instruction are required to submit a minimum score of 500 (paper) or 61 (internet). Scores should be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

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:**

Applicants who have graduated from a secondary or high school in a country where English is not the primary language or who have not attended school at the secondary level or beyond for at least three years full time where English is the principal language of instruction are required to submit a minimum score of 550 (paper) or 80 (internet). Scores should be submitted to Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations (GAPE).

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.

**General Information:**

This requirement may be waived in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations if the applicant meets at least one 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 72 semester/108 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.

Applicants who do not meet any of the above criteria may have the department chair or designated program admissions representative petition on their behalf to waive the English language proficiency requirement. Such petitions are rarely approved.

Approved: April 29, 2019
Vote: 15-0-0
Present: Bullen, Gill, Grindstaff, Hill, Hurtado, Khan, Kim, Kinney, Manzo, Nash, Ng, Pang, Sen, Sullivan-Green, Walters, Wilson, Yao
Financial impact: None
Workload impact: None