

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

**S20-1, University Policy, English Language Proficiency  
Requirement for SJSU Applicants**

**Rescinds and Replaces: University Policy F75-6**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Legislative History:**

At its meeting of February 10, 2020, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Sullivan-Green for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. At its meeting of November 24, 1975, the Academic Senate passed F75-6 a resolution on the TOEFL requirement for applicants who were at that time called "Resident Aliens," i.e., permanent residents granted an immigration visa. 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 it was further resolved that this requirement may be waived in the Admissions Office if the applicant met certain well-defined criteria indicating English language proficiency.

**ACTION BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

**Signed and Approved by  
Mary A. Papazian, President  
San José State University, on  
May 4, 2020.**

# **University Policy English Language Proficiency Requirement for SJSU Applicants**

Whereas: Having a strong understanding of the English language is important for success at SJSU, and

Whereas: It is important to demonstrate evidence of language proficiency prior to being admitted into the University, and

Whereas: The language in F75-6 is outdated, and

Whereas: F75-6 was specific to permanent residents only, and

Whereas: F75-6 makes reference to citizenship status which is irrelevant, and

Whereas: F75-6 does not mention any English Proficiency Tests other than TOEFL, and

Whereas: F75-6 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 1082: International Students

(<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/6591473/latest/>), therefore be it

Resolved: That University Policy F75-6 be rescinded and replaced with the following.

Approved: January 27, 2020

Vote: 14-0-0

Present: Delgadillo, Honda (non-voting), Jackson (non-voting), Khan, Kim, Kitajima, Parent, Rollerson, Roque, Sen, Sullivan-Green, Trang, Walters, Wilson, Wolcott, Yao

Absent: Hill, Sorkhabi

Financial Impact: None

Workload Impact: None

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

## **English Language Proficiency Requirement for SJSU applicants**

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 a primary language and
- 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:

Post-baccalaureate or graduate applicants who meet both of the following criteria 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 a primary language and
- 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 Admissions and Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations 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 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.
4. The department graduate admissions representative requests that a waiver be granted after consultation with the College of Graduate Studies to assess English language proficiency.