

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Approval Authority	Senate
Responsible Executive	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Related Policies / Legislation	Admission (80) Prerequisites and Co-requisites (84) Graduate Course and Program Approval (209) Undergraduate Course and Program Approval (21) <i>University Act, s. 35.2 (5)(d)</i>

PURPOSE

This policy is to establish minimum English language requirements for admission to post-secondary studies at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

SCOPE

This policy applies to all UFV post-secondary programs, excluding continuing education non-credit programs.

DEFINITIONS

In this policy, the following definitions apply:

Post-secondary entry-level language proficiency: A level of English language proficiency that allows students to begin post-secondary studies at UFV, but is not necessarily sufficient to take first year English or written communications courses or to enter some UFV programs.

Post-secondary program: A program that is considered university or college level.

Preparatory program: A program at the pre-undergraduate or developmental level designed to upgrade or enhance English and/or academic skills in preparation for post-secondary studies.

Degree/diploma level language proficiency: A level of English language proficiency that is required for admission to degree, associate degree, diploma, graduate level, and post-baccalaureate programs and meets the prerequisites for Academic Writing (ENGL 105) and Introduction to Workplace and Academic Communication (CMNS 155). This level of proficiency also may be required for other UFV programs.

POLICY

As English is the primary language of instruction at UFV, students are required to have a minimum level of English language proficiency to be successful in post-secondary studies. To facilitate student success, UFV shall establish language proficiency requirements for admission to post-secondary programs.

Applicants for admission to any UFV post-secondary program shall be required to meet at least post-secondary entry-level language proficiency. Applicants to bachelor degrees, associate degrees,

diplomas, graduate-level programs, and post-baccalaureate programs shall be required to meet at least degree/diploma level language proficiency-

Applicants meet the English language proficiency requirement for a program by providing evidence they have met one of the options listed in the English Language Proficiency Standards published in the UFV academic calendar. Admission to post-secondary programs allows students the opportunity to register for courses numbered 100 or higher, subject to meeting specific course prerequisites and program requirements. Students who meet Degree/diploma-level proficiency will also meet the course prerequisites for ENGL 105 and CMNS 155.

UFV supports students in improving their language skills while studying at UFV. Applicants who do not meet the minimum level of language proficiency for admission to a post-secondary program will be given the opportunity to improve their English language proficiency through UFV's preparatory programs.

REGULATIONS

1. Through the program approval process, programs will establish language requirements at the minimum level stated in the policy section or higher, as appropriate to the expectations of the program. Any exception to the minimum language requirements for a program must be approved through the formal program approval process. Usually exceptions are considered only when there is a compelling rationale and the students in the program do not have access to post-secondary courses in other disciplines. The language requirements for each program will be published in the UFV academic calendar.
2. The Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) is responsible to maintain and review English language proficiency standards. Requests to modify these standards must be submitted to UEC with a rationale and evidence of consultation. UEC will ensure the Graduate Studies Committee has been consulted and will recommend changes to UFV Senate. The standards approved by Senate shall be published in the UFV academic calendar. Modifications that make it more difficult for students to meet the English language proficiency requirement will be published in the UFV calendar at least 12 months prior to the semester they take effect.
3. Student requests for exceptions to the language requirement for admission to a program must be submitted in writing, with evidence of language proficiency, to the Office of the Registrar. They will be considered by a standing committee established by the Undergraduate Education Committee or Graduate Studies Committee.
4. Student requests for language policy waivers for registration in individual courses must be approved by the course instructor and the department head.

APPENDICES

English Language Proficiency Standards, published in the UFV academic calendar.