

English Proficiency Requirement

All international applicants (i.e., those who are not U.S. Citizens) for graduate programs in the Psychological Sciences department must fulfill the department's English Proficiency Requirement in order to be considered for admission.

The 3 options for fulfilling this requirement are described below in the "English Proficiency Documentation Options" section. **Before you submit your application** you should know:

1. which one of these three options you will use to fulfill the requirement;
2. what specific official documentation is required for the option you choose; and
3. the timeline for having the required documentation delivered directly from the issuing institution to the AU Graduate School.

Documents that you upload to your online application will NOT suffice for this purpose. You will see that each option requires delivery of an official document sent directly from the issuing institution to the AU Graduate School such that it is received by a particular point in time.

If you will not be able to meet this official documentation timeline, do not submit an online application. Your application will not be considered and the costs you incur to apply will be non-refundable.

1. English Proficiency Documentation Options

- **Option A:** English Proficiency Test Scores: TOEFL or Duolingo or IELTS; **or**
- **Option B:** Official transcript showing completion of an undergraduate (Bachelor's) or graduate (Master's or PhD) degree from an accredited U.S. college/university; **or**
- **Option C:** Official transcript showing completion of degree from a non-US college/university for which the AU Graduate School has determined that:
 - 1) the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution; and
 - 2) the institution's official medium of instruction is in the English language; and
 - 3) the institution is located in a nation for which the official government language is English.

2. Details and Due Dates for Documentation of English Proficiency

A. Option A : Test Scores

The minimum required scores are as follows:

1. **TOEFL internet-based test (iBT):**
 - **For tests before January 21, 2026:** minimum total score of 79 and at least a 16 on each section other than Speaking and a minimum of 23 on the Speaking section; **OR**

- **For tests after January 21, 2026 (iBT 26):** minimum total score of 4.5 and minimum 4.0 on each component other than Speaking and minimum 4.5 on Speaking component; OR
- 2. **Duolingo English Test (DET):** total score 115 or higher AND Speaking component score of 130 or higher AND minimum score of 110 on each other component; OR
- 3. **IELTS (Academic):** minimum Overall Band score of 6.5 AND a minimum Speaking section score of 7.

These scores are required in order to be considered for admission to our graduate programs. They are the minimums that the university requires for the assistantship employment by which we support our graduate students. They are higher than the scores required by the Graduate School for general admission. GRE scores do not fulfill this requirement.

Scores meeting or exceeding these requirements must be officially reported directly by ETS (ETS Inst. Code 1005) or Duolingo or IELTS to the AU Graduate School and the report must be received by the Graduate School and posted to your online application file **no later than one week after the application deadline for the program to which you are applying.**

For example, the PhD programs have an application deadline of December 1, so official scores sent by the issuer must be received by the AU Graduate School and posted to your online application file as “Received” no later than December 8. In order to accomplish this, one typically must complete the test several weeks before the December 1 application deadline and must, prior to the December 1 deadline, order a score report for the AU Graduate School.

B. Option B: Official transcript showing completion of an undergraduate (Bachelor’s) or graduate (Master’s or PhD) degree from an accredited U.S. college/university

For initial application, follow the standard instructions with respect to transcripts in item #4 of the “Detailed Instructions” linked near the bottom of our [general application instructions](#).

If a program invites you to interview for admission, you will at that time be asked to have an official transcript for each post-secondary institution you have attended (both US and non-US institutions) sent from the issuing institution directly to AU Graduate School so that it is delivered to the Graduate School and posted to your online application file as “Received” **no later than January 20 or 2 weeks after the date the interview invitation was extended to you, whichever comes later.** Transcripts that you uploaded to your online application at submission will not suffice for this purpose. For delivery of official transcripts, go to the “Detailed Instructions” referenced in the previous paragraph and see the “Official Transcripts” item in the “Additional Information” section.

Example A: If a PhD program contacts you on December 20 and invites you for an interview in January, you will need to have all of your official transcripts sent directly from the issuing institutions to the AU Graduate School such that they are posted on your online application as “Received” no later than January 20.

Example B: If a program contacts you on January 10 and invites you for an interview that will occur on January 30, you will need to have the transcripts sent so that they are posted as “Received” no later than January 24 (2 weeks after the date on which the interview offer was issued).

Degree still pending: If you are pursuing Option B but have not, as of the date the interview invitation was extended to you, completed the required degree from an accredited U.S. college/university, it is sufficient at that point for your institution to send to the AU Graduate School an official “in-progress” transcript (i.e., one that shows all coursework completed plus the courses for which you are currently enrolled). If you are selected for admission to our Graduate School, you will need to follow up with another official transcript that shows completion and conferral of the undergraduate (Bachelor’s) or graduate (Master’s or PhD) degree from the accredited U.S. college/university. This will need to be sent directly from the issuing institution to the AU Graduate School and posted as “Received” on your online application file prior to the start of the semester for which you have been admitted. If that does not occur, your admission will be cancelled.

C. Option C: Official transcript showing completion of a degree from a non-US college/university for which the Auburn University Graduate School has determined that:

- 1) the degree is equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution ; and**
- 2) the degree-granting institution’s official medium of instruction is in the English language; and**
- 3) the institution is located in a nation for which the official government language is English.**

Only pursue Option C if you will be unable to fulfill the English proficiency requirement using Option A or Option B.

To pursue Option C, send the following query to the Graduate School several weeks before the application deadline for your program and ***no later than*** two weeks before that deadline. Address it to gradadm@auburn.edu with the subject “Waive TOEFL with English Medium of Instruction?”, and cc Thane Bryant (bryangt@auburn.edu) and Caroline Leonard (ect0005@auburn.edu) on the message :

I plan to apply for a Psychological Sciences graduate program and to fulfill the English Proficiency requirement for admission by documenting completion of a post-secondary degree at a non-US institution whose official medium of instruction is in the English language. The institution is [name and location of the institution] and the degree I earned is [name of the degree, e.g., “Bachelors degree in Psychology”]. Is completion of this degree from this institution sufficient to fulfill the AU Graduate School’s English proficiency requirement for admission?

If the Graduate School tells you that the degree you described will not fulfill the AU Graduate School’s English proficiency requirement for admission, then do not proceed with the application. You will not be considered or admitted and any resources you expend on the application process will be wasted.

If, on the other hand, the Graduate School says that your degree will fulfill the English proficiency requirement, then proceed with the application. In the section of the online application that requires you to upload transcripts, be sure to include a copy of an official/certified English translation for any transcript that is not in English.

If you use Option C and our program notifies you that they would like to offer you admission, you will be asked to have official original language transcripts and final diploma or certificate(s) and a certified English translation of each document sent directly from the issuing institution to the AU Graduate School such that it is posted to your online application file as “Received” within 3 weeks. Once the documentation is marked “Received” we will issue an official offer letter to you. If you choose to accept that offer, we will ask the Graduate School to admit you and they will at that time initiate the I-20 form that is necessary for the visa process.

Our PhD programs begin issuing offers as early as late January, so under option C you need to **have a plan to have all official transcripts, final diplomas/certificates and translations sent directly from issuing institutions to the AU Graduate School such that they are received within 3 weeks of February 1 or any date thereafter** on which a program may notify you of intent to offer you admission.

For example, if a program notifies you on February 7 that they would like to offer you admission, you will be asked to have all official transcripts, final diplomas/certificates and translations sent directly from issuing institutions to the AU Graduate School such that they are posted as “Received” on your online application account no later than February 28 (3 weeks after the date on which you were notified of the proposed admission offer). If that does not occur, you will not be offered admission.

Directions for delivery of official transcripts to the Graduate School may be found from our [general application instructions](#) by clicking the “Detailed Instructions” link near the

bottom of that page. In the “Detailed Instructions” document, see the “Official Transcripts” item in the “Additional Information” section.

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