

Academic Standards Committee Report, April 18, 2022

The following three proposals were passed by Academic Standards on February 22 and March 22, 2022, and are recommended to the full Faculty Senate for approval.

I. Proposal from English BS Ed Program to change minimum grade for several courses requiring professional program admission.

Proposal: Change the minimum grade for ENG 402, 406, 407, and 408 from C- to C.

Rationale: All other courses that require admission to the program have a minimum grade of C, and admission-required courses across *all* undergraduate certification programs also require a minimum grade of C. ENG 402, 406, 407, and 408 all require program admission, and changing their minimum grade to C will strengthen our standards in line with other programs.

The proposal was approved unanimously as proposed.

II. Proposal from the Theatre Department to require that students seeking to enroll in the BFA Theatre pass an interview/audition for full admission to the program.

Audition/Interview Requirement:

All students choosing to pursue the BFA in Theatre must audition/interview for the Department of Theatre to enroll. The audition/interview process is an opportunity to demonstrate an adequate proficiency to craft. For more details about interviews/auditions, please see <insert link here>.

If a student chooses to pursue the BFA in Theatre and has not yet successfully completed the audition/interview, their degree program will be listed as pre-BFA.

Full proposal attached as Appendix A.

The proposal was approved unanimously as proposed.

III. Proposal to alter the standard of English language proficiency required of international students. The approved admissions requirement follows:

English Language Proficiency Requirement for Acceptance of International Students

To ensure maximum benefit from academic study, all applicants who have not earned a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent at an institution where English is the medium of instruction must

provide evidence of English language proficiency in order to be considered for admission to the University for undergraduate studies.

Evidence of English language proficiency in these cases is required in one of the following forms:

- Official results no older than two years on one of the following tests of English proficiency at or above the minimum score indicated:
- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum iBT score of 65 (PBT 500).
- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) minimum score of 6.5.
- The Duolingo English Test (DET) minimum score of 95.
- For those already in Connecticut, language proficiency can also be assessed through the CCSU office of the Intensive English Language Program (IELP).

English Proficiency Score Exemptions for International Students

Undergraduate applicants may be exempt from providing English proficiency scores if one of the following criteria is met:

1. Completion of a high school diploma or equivalent at a non-United States institution in a country where English is the primary language and in which English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU.
2. Completion of a previous undergraduate or graduate degree at a non-United States institution of Higher Education in a country where English is the primary language and where English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU.
3. Completion of a high school diploma or a previous undergraduate or graduate academic program from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education.

The Admissions Office may consider additional factors in consultation with the International Education Committee of the Senate.

Official documentation must be submitted from the overseas institution verifying that the applicant's undergraduate or graduate study is from an institution where all instruction is in English. The university reserves the right to require additional testing or evidence of competency and may require study in the Intensive English Language Program.

Full proposal attached as Appendix B.

Proposal was unanimously passed with an amendment dropping provisional language pending passage of a "Central Pathway."

Appendix A

Proposal to Add Interview-Audition to Theatre BFA

1) Nature of request

The Department of Theatre offers a BA in Theatre and a BFA in Theatre with specializations in Performance and in Technology, Design, and Production. The BFA is a specialized and intensive course of study which prepares students for careers in professional theatre or for future study.

The Department requests the formal addition of an audition/interview requirement to enroll in the BFA Theatre (either specialization). Currently, students can enroll as a BFA in Theatre; however, students are manually transferred to the Theatre BA until successful completion of the audition/interview. This transfer to the BA may be perceived by the students as a “demotion;” in practice, it is simply a means to manage admittance to the BFA program.

To improve process, the Department of Theatre requests that students who wish to be considered for admittance into the BFA program enroll as a pre-BFA until the audition/interview is satisfactorily completed. The Registrar and Director of Undergraduate Admissions were consulted before making this request.

2) If submitted by department, date of vote

This proposal was voted on by the faculty on Friday, March 11th, 2022

3) Rationale for recommended change

The BFA Theatre degree (any specialization) ascribes to a pre-professional model where students must demonstrate proficiency in craft to be admitted to the BFA. While some students may be prepared to enter the BFA directly from secondary school or another institution of higher education, more typically students require opportunity to build proficiency at CCSU.

So that students can declare their intent to pursue a BFA, we request that students enroll as a pre-BFA until they can successfully complete the audition/interview.

This audition/interview requirement aligns with other pre-professional/professional degree programs here at Central Connecticut State University, such as Nursing and Business whose students enroll as pre-Nursing, and pre-Business before being accepted into their respective program. Additionally, this audition/interview process follows a similar standard set by Music, which requires an audition to enroll in their degree programs.

Auditions/interviews are common entrance requirements to BFA programs. Please see examples of [Western Carolina University](#) (a peer institution), [Salem State University](#), and [Kean University](#).

- 4) Exact wording that will go into Undergraduate Catalog (if applicable)

Audition/Interview Requirement:

All students choosing to pursue the BFA in Theatre must audition/interview for the Department of Theatre to enroll. The audition/interview process is an opportunity to demonstrate an adequate proficiency to craft. For more details about interviews/auditions, please see <insert link here>.

If a student chooses to pursue the BFA in Theatre and has not yet successfully completed the audition/interview, their degree program will be listed as pre-BFA Theatre.

- 5) Date new policy will go into effect

July 31st, 2022

- 6) Effects on programs and faculty load (if any)

None.

- 7) Signature of Department or Administrative Unit

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Fallon". The script is cursive and fluid.

Marianne Fallon
Interim Chairperson of Theatre
March 11, 2022

Appendix B

Undergraduate Admissions Policy Proposal

Date: March 15, 2022

From: Dr. Matt Ciscel (English, CLASS)

RE: English Language Proficiency Requirement for Acceptance of International Students

Recommended Format for Academic Standards Submissions Relating to Scholastic Standards or Admissions Policies...

Requests for changes to undergraduate scholastic standards or admissions policies shall be made according to the following captioned format:

1. Nature of request

At large proposal from a faculty member based on recent discussions with the Admissions Office, the Senate's International Education Committee (IEC), and the Center for International Education (CIE).

2. If submitted by department, date of vote

N/A

3. Rationale for recommended change

The English Proficiency Requirement has not been revisited or updated in many years (unknown). A recent e-mail discussion made it clear that the cut-off scores for tests and types of tests accepted might need to be updated. In addition, the IEC, CIE, and select faculty have been working on a special Pathway Program for admission of international students whose English proficiency is just shy of these requirements. The proposal below includes a mechanism for full admission of those students to an academic program while simultaneously requiring intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to bolster their English proficiency. The courses (ESL 106, 107, 108, and 109, plus non-credit work in the Intensive English Language Program (IELP)) are already in place to serve these potential students.

4. Exact wording that will go into Undergraduate Catalog (if applicable)

See the proposed language in the table below.

5. Date new policy will go into effect

August 2023 (Fall Semester)

6. Effects on programs and faculty load (if any)

With effective marketing, these broader testing options and the Pathway could help attract a new wave of international students to academic programs across the university. Aside from the ESL courses in the proposed Pathway, faculty load impacts are not initially expected but will vary by academic program depending on acceptance and enrollment trends.

7. Signature of Department or Administrative Unit

NOTE: There is no information in the online Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog about undergraduate admissions policies of any sort. Multiple searches only found information about graduate admissions in the Catalog. This is a situation that warrants attention. As a result, the proposal below includes, first, proposed language for the Catalog (based on Graduate Admissions language there), and then proposed changes to language on the CCSU International Admissions Website:

<https://www.ccsu.edu/internationalAdmissions/>

Current	Proposed
[no current catalog language]	<p>English Language Proficiency Requirement for Acceptance of International Students</p> <p>To ensure maximum benefit from academic study, all applicants who have not earned a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent at an institution where English is the medium of instruction must provide evidence of English language proficiency in order to be considered for admission to the University for undergraduate studies.</p> <p>Evidence of English language proficiency in these cases is required in one of the following forms:</p> <p>Official results no older than two years on one of the following tests of English proficiency at or above the minimum score indicated:</p> <p>The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum iBT score of 65 (PBT 500).</p> <p>The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) minimum score of 6.5.</p> <p>The Duolingo English Test (DET) minimum score of 95.</p> <p>For those already in Connecticut, language proficiency can also be assessed through the CCSU office of the Intensive English Language Program (IELP).</p> <p>[Pending Senate approval and administrative support,] CCSU also offers a Pathway Program that requires intensive English courses for one or</p>

	<p>two semesters while beginning studies toward an undergraduate degree. International applicants with slightly lower English proficiency scores can be considered for full admission to an academic program as part of the Pathway Program based on the following minimum test scores:</p> <p>One semester Pathway minimum English proficiency score: TOEFL iBT of 53 (PBT 475), IELTS of 6.0, or DET of 85.</p> <p>Two semester Pathway minimum English proficiency score: TOEFL iBT of 46 (PBT 450), IELTS of 5.5, or DET of 75.</p>
[no current catalog language]	<p>English Proficiency Score Exemptions for International Students</p> <p>Undergraduate applicants may be exempt from providing English proficiency scores if one of the following criteria is met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of a high school diploma or equivalent at a non-United States institution in a country where English is the primary language and in which English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU. 2. Completion of a previous undergraduate or graduate degree at a non-United States institution of Higher Education in a country where English is the primary language and where English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU. 3. Completion of a high school diploma or a previous undergraduate or graduate academic program from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education. <p>The Admissions Office may consider additional factors in consultation with the International Education Committee of the Senate.</p> <p>Official documentation must be submitted from the overseas institution verifying that the applicant's undergraduate or graduate study is from an</p>

	<p>institution where all instruction is in English. The university reserves the right to require additional testing or evidence of competency and may require study in the Intensive English Language Program.</p>
<p>[current admissions website]</p> <p>Welcome to Central Connecticut State University--your gateway to an outstanding university experience in the United States! More than 40 countries are represented in our international student population, and the university recognizes and appreciates how international students enrich the educational experience of our entire campus community. CCSU will prepare you for leadership in a growing global society.</p> <p>The university welcomes applications from students around the world. An international student is someone who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States (holder of a "Green Card"). Prospective international students complete the same application for enrollment as domestic students and they must meet the same admissions criteria required of all other applicants.</p> <p>International students are selected for admission based on a review of their academic success in their previous education and scores achieved on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).</p> <p><i>International students must submit the following information and credentials to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed application for admission: click here. Be sure that your secondary school transcript and test scores are sent by mail (see below for address). \$50.00 non-refundable application fee. Online applicants will be asked to submit the \$50.00 application fee prior 	<p>[suggested website revisions]</p> <p>Welcome to Central Connecticut State University--your gateway to an outstanding university experience in the United States! More than 40 countries are represented in our international student population, and the university recognizes and appreciates how international students enrich the educational experience of our entire campus community. CCSU will prepare you for leadership in a growing global society.</p> <p>The university welcomes applications from students around the world. An international student is someone who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States (holder of a "Green Card"). Prospective international students complete the same application for enrollment as domestic students. Aside from the English language proficiency requirement, they must meet the same admissions criteria required of all other applicants.</p> <p>International students are selected for admission based on a review of their academic success in their previous education and scores achieved on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an approved equivalent.</p> <p><i>International students must submit the following information and credentials to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed application for admission: click here. Be sure that your secondary school transcript and test scores are sent by mail (see below for address).

<p>to submission of the online application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official copies of secondary and post-secondary educational records. (If records are in a language other than English, official translations must be submitted as well). CCSU highly recommends that students seek foreign educational credential evaluations from NACES® members. NACES® is an association of private foreign educational credential evaluation services committed to formulating and maintaining ethical standards in the field of foreign educational evaluation. • A personal essay on a topic of your choice (1-2 typed pages preferred). • SAT and/or ACT results are required for first time students. • Application deadline is April 1st for the fall semester and November 1st for the spring semester. <p>Applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English by submitting a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Information on the TOEFL may be obtained from Educational Testing Services, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA, (609) 771-7243 or 771-7100.</p> <p>The three versions of the TOEFL that a prospective student may take are listed here with minimum acceptable scores:</p> <p>Internet: minimum score 61 Computer: minimum score 173 Paper: minimum score 500</p> <p>The IELTS Exam is also accepted. A minimum band score of 5.5 is required for admissions consideration.</p> <p>Applicants must submit an Affidavit of Support (PDF) verifying that a sponsor will provide the Estimated Expenses in U.S.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50.00 non-refundable application fee. Online applicants will be asked to submit the \$50.00 application fee prior to submission of the online application. • Official copies of secondary and post-secondary educational records. (If records are in a language other than English, official translations must be submitted as well). CCSU highly recommends that students seek foreign educational credential evaluations from NACES® members. NACES® is an association of private foreign educational credential evaluation services committed to formulating and maintaining ethical standards in the field of foreign educational evaluation. • A personal essay on a topic of your choice (1-2 typed pages preferred). • SAT and/or ACT results are required for first time students. • Application deadline is April 1st for the fall semester and November 1st for the spring semester. <p>Applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English by submitting a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an approved equivalent. Information on the TOEFL may be obtained from Educational Testing Services, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA, (609) 771-7243 or 771-7100.</p> <p>The two versions of the TOEFL that a prospective student may take are listed here with minimum acceptable scores:</p> <p>Internet (iBT): minimum score 65 Computer: minimum score 173 Paper (PBT): minimum score 500</p> <p>The IELTS Exam is also accepted. A minimum band score of 6.5 is required for admissions consideration.</p>
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dollars to you for each calendar year of study at CCSU.

The Affidavit of Support and supporting financial documents should be mailed to:

Center for International Education

Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

Send all application materials (except Affidavit of Support) to:

Undergraduate Admissions Office

Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

CCSU's George R. Muirhead Center for International Education is available to help international students with immigration questions during the application process. Contact the George R. Muirhead [Center for International Education](#), Barnard Hall, Room 138 (860) 832-2040, fax (860) 832-2047 for assistance with questions or concerns. If accepted, international students must also submit a medical history form and parental consent for medical treatment.

Upon acceptance to the University, all international students will be issued an I-20 form, The I-20 will be mailed to the student's permanent address as listed on the admissions application. The Office of Recruitment and Admissions should be notified if there is a change of address during the application process.

** Students seeking admission to Central Connecticut State University's undergraduate program who do not meet the minimum English language proficiency standards may enroll in an Intensive English Language Program (IELP) prior to gaining full admission. Please contact the [Center for International Education](#) for details on the IELP program.

The Duolingo English Test (DET) is also accepted. A minimum score of 95 is required for admissions consideration.

~~[Pending approval,] CCSU also offers a Pathway Program that requires intensive English courses for one or two semesters while beginning studies toward a degree. International applicants with slightly lower English proficiency scores will be considered for full admission to an academic program as part of the Pathway Program based on the following minimum test scores:~~

~~One-semester Pathway minimum English proficiency score: TOEFL iBT of 53 (PBT 475), IELTS of 6.0, or DET of 85.~~

~~Two-semester Pathway minimum English proficiency score: TOEFL iBT of 46 (PBT 450), IELTS of 5.5, or DET of 75.~~

Applicants must submit an [Affidavit of Support](#) (PDF) verifying that a sponsor will provide the Estimated Expenses in U.S. dollars to you for each calendar year of study at CCSU.

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<p>[website, UG International Student Admissions] https://www.ccsu.edu/internationalAdmissions/</p>	<p>138 (860) 832-2040, fax (860) 832-2047 for assistance with questions or concerns. If accepted, international students must also submit a medical history form and parental consent for medical treatment.</p> <p>Upon acceptance to the University, all international students will be issued an I-20 form, The I-20 will be mailed to the student's permanent address as listed on the admissions application. The Office of Recruitment and Admissions should be notified if there is a change of address during the application process.</p> <p>** Students seeking admission to Central Connecticut State University's undergraduate program who do not meet the minimum English language proficiency standards for full or Pathway admission may enroll in an Intensive English Language Program (IELP) prior to gaining full admission. Please contact the Center for International Education for details on the IELP program.</p> <p>[website, UG International Student Admissions] https://www.ccsu.edu/internationalAdmissions/</p>
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