February 2020 Flash Feedback Results: Test Score Requirements & COVID-19

What standardized tests does your program or institution accept as proof of English proficiency?

- 99% TOEFL
- 93% IELTS
- 12% MELAB
- 22% PTE Academic
- 10% Cambridge C1 Advanced
- 6% Duolingo English Test (DET)

- 1% responded to this question as “Not Applicable.”

Does your institution require all applicants to complete standardized tests such as the GRE, GMAT, etc. for admission? (Excluding English proficiency tests.)

- 70% Depends on the program (not a university-wide requirement)
- 20% No
- 3% Yes
- 4% Other (please specify)

Other:
- It is a Graduate College requirement, but departments have the ability substitute or drop based on best practices within their discipline. Changes must go through curriculum review.
- Tests are not required except for initial teaching licensure which require the MTEL (a Massachusetts licensure test).
- Yes, but we allow programs to request standing exceptions.

Does your program or department require standardized tests such as the GRE, GMAT, etc., for admission? (Excluding English proficiency tests.)

- 42% Not applicable (not in an academic program/department)
- 16% Yes
- 16% No
- 16% Other (please specify)
Other:
- Depends on program.
- Depends on the academic program.
- Depends on the program.
- I am in admissions office, and test requirement is program-dependent.
- It is required unless they meet an exemption.
- One of the programs we manage does require them.
- Some do and some do not.
- Some require.
- Some, not all, programs, yes.
- Yes but we do have a waiver for applicants that meet certain criteria.
- Yes, but waivers can be granted.

Is your campus making exceptions to test requirements for students from China due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak?

Other:
- As long as we can access official scores online, we will accept those.
- No, but allowing extra time/will accept later scores.
- Only 10 Chinese applications were incomplete, and we notified our program directors.
- Reviewing exception requests on a case by case basis.
- So far, we are not waiving tests, but we are extending deadlines as needed.
- Some schools on campus, but not all.
- We are handling on a case-by-case basis as we have only had one student reach out to us about their inability to take the exam by the required time.
- We are still considering the best way forward.
- We are temporarily accepting Duolingo due to COVID-19 concerns.
- We have not received any requests, but would consider them case by case.

Is your program or department making exceptions to test requirements for students from China due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

Other:
- No because the outbreak happened after our deadline so not applicable.
- Not applicable due to no requirement for exam.
- Only at the request of an applicant and on a case by case basis.
• We are handling on a case-by-case basis as we have only had one student reach out to us about their inability to take the exam by the required time.

**If your institution or program is offering exceptions to standard testing requirements due to COVID-19, please describe here.**

• Applications will be reviewed and considered without test scores; however, applicants will need to submit scores before an admission offer will be made.
• Because most of our application deadlines have already passed (and had passed by the time of the outbreak), we have not received many requests for exceptions. However, we will handle these on a case by case basis.
• Case by case basis only.
• Could extend the deadline, or possibly accept another form of test.
• Duolingo is now accepted for English language. GRE and GMAT are no longer required of Chinese applicants who have not submitted them. They will be interviewed by each graduate program (STEM programs).
• Flexibility with deadlines; Option to take Duolingo English test; Re-emphasized holistic review and the option to waive the test requirement based on other factors in the application.
• If applicants are having issues sending official test scores to our institution, we will verify the test scores online until arrangements can be made to send the official scores to our institution. If applicants did not take a test before the centres closed, they would not have met the application deadline, so they are advised to apply to the next available intake.
• If testing centers are closed, we are working with applicants on a case-by-case basis.
• Not yet.
• Replace IELTS/TOEFL with Duolingo & Interview. Considering alternative testing options to replace GRE/GMAT have not found a suitable replacement yet.
• Reviewing on case by case basis. Academic department must make the request for the exception.
• Several departments have agreed to review applications while waiting for students complete their tests.
• Some of our program directors may consider Chinese applicants after their priority deadlines.
• Waivers upon request.
• We are allowing results from Duolingo as a temporary measure.
• We are allowing students to take the exams and submit results after the application deadline. Normally, tests must be taken by the application deadline and results must be sent immediately thereafter.
• We are considering offering Duolingo as an alternate test option.
• We are in the information gathering phase and have not made any official decisions yet.
• We will accept Duolingo for all applicants with a follow-up English proficiency screening interview for admitted students.
• We will be accepting the Duolingo English proficiency testing for this year only.
• We will consider Duolingo with certain results. These students will have to check in and test at our intensive English Center upon arrival.
• Working with the student to find possible alternatives. Much of this is based on an individual basis.

**If your institution or program is having discussions or making other provisions due to the COVID-19 outbreak, please describe them here.**

• Allowing student to bring official transcripts with them to campus, since their Chinese university is closed. Usually we require the official transcript before matriculation.
• Discussions may begin soon regarding newly admitted graduate students from China if it appears that the COVID-19 outbreak will not be resolved by the start of the coming academic year.
• Flexibility with deadlines, if students can't obtain transcripts or any other application materials.
• In preliminary discussion, but at this time it is on an individual basis.
• No.
• Our Undergraduate Admission is allowing students to submit Duolingo scores. At the graduate level, we have started the discussion, but tabled it as we have only had one student reach out about not being to take the exam on time. At this time we will review exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
• Some programs are not requiring the GRE.
• Students can always receive automatic deferrals if their visas are not approved in time.
• We already have a standard waiver process for our English Language Proficiency requirement. I expect that we will encourage departments to follow this process for students affected by the outbreak. Some programs require GRE/GMAT as part of their application. We will likely advise them to look for alternative methods for assessment for students affected by the outbreak.
• We are a centralized graduate admissions office, and are having discussions with our programs regarding processing "temporary admission" for China applicants who meet the University and program requirements, but
who may be experiencing a delay in submitting the English proficiency test score requirement. We are not waiving the requirement for any applicants, however.

- We are allowing students to submit without the scores, and letting them know that if there do end up being April/May test dates, we will make every effort to still accept those scores.
- We are asking programs to be as flexible with deadlines as possible, but the reality is the vast majority of our program deadlines occurred prior to the outbreak and are unaffected.
- We are continuing to monitor the situation and make appropriate adjustments.
- We are discussing the use of the Duolingo test as a short term backstop, but it is not likely we will use it.
- We are in discussions with colleagues in the ESL and international student offices to brainstorm possible options. Thanks to the recent NAGAP newsletter, we clicked on an ETS link and discovered ETS is offering to advertise school's online information sessions while prospects are quarantined and accessing the internet more.
- We are looking at other possible English proficiency options such as Duolingo English Test (DET). I would like to hear from schools who currently use that test.
- We will meet next week to discuss steps that need to be taken. In addition to admission questions, we will discuss how to accommodate students we will encourage to stay in the US over the summer break.

What type of office do you work in?

- Academic program or department: 37%
- Centralized, university-wide office: 54%
- Other (please specify): 9%

Other:
- Grad Admission - Nursing and Health Sciences
- Graduate Admissions Office
- Graduate Dean's Office
- School level, supporting multiple academic program/depts.
- School of Education Graduate Admissions
- School-specific office serving multiple programs, but not full university.