

**Proof of English Proficiency for Admission to the International Student  
Program at San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley**  
Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College

**Applicants can demonstrate English proficiency by fulfilling one of the following criteria:**

**A. Exams**

- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**
  - A minimum qualifying score on the Internet based TOEFL (iBT) is 56
  - A minimum qualifying score on the pencil & paper TOEFL is 480, with no sectional scores below 48
- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
  - A minimum qualifying level of Band 5.5
- **Pearson Test of English (PTE)**
  - A minimum qualifying score of 42
- **EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency**
  - A minimum qualifying score of Grade 2A
- **GTEC CBT Global Test of English Communication - Computer Based Testing GTEC**
  - A minimum qualifying score of 1026-1050
- **Cambridge English Language Assessment**

**We accept:**

  - B2 First (FCE) scores of 160-179; C2 Advanced (CAE) scores of 180-199; and C2 Proficiency (CPE) scores of 200+

**B. Intensive English Language Schools**

**Successful completion of the appropriate ESL level or higher at the following schools:**

- **San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley (SVIEP): Located at Cañada College:** Level 4
- **AAE (American Academy of English):** Adv. Level or the University Readiness Program
- **Columbia West College:** Standard ESL Program Level V
- **EF International Schools:** Level B2-3
- **ELI (The English Language Institute):** Level 6 or University Preparation Program
- **ELS Language Centers:** Level 109
- **English Language Institute (ELI):** Level 6 or University Preparation Program
- **FLS International:** Level 14
- **Golden Gate Language School:** Level 12
- **Kaplan International:** Higher Intermediate Level
- **ILSC (International Language Schools of Canada):** Academic Preparation Level I4
- **Language Pacifica:** Level 5
- **Open Hearts Language Academy International (OHLA):** Advanced Level II
- **St. Giles International:** Level 5
- **Stafford House:** Upper Intermediate Level 5 of Level B2 of the GE Curriculum
- **TALK School of Languages:** Level 9
- **USC International Academy:** UP Gateway Level 4\
- **Certification of completion of the highest level** from any accredited U.S. intensive English language school.

## **C. Other**

**1. Secondary Education:** Earned a high school diploma, or studied for a minimum of 2 years and attained a grade of "C" or better in English in one of the English speaking countries (U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand).

a. Nordic institutions: Gymnasium English B and received grades of "VG" or "MVG".

b. For Sweden, "VG" = "C" and "MVG" = "A/B". Also, English B = English 6.

c. Singapore: Completed all years of study in Singapore schools. Completion of secondary school only will require a TOEFL or IELTS score.

**2. International School:** Earned a high school diploma in an International School or similar, where English is the primary language of instruction. You must submit high school transcripts and other documentation, such as a letter on school's letterhead, stating that English was the primary language of instruction.

**3. Completed advanced level ESL** or college-level English classes at a U.S. college or university. You must provide an official transcript to receive this waiver.

**4. Received a degree from a college or university** in the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia or New Zealand. You must provide an official transcript to receive this waiver.

**5. Are a resident of and completed all years of study** in a country (not listed above) whose official language is English.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Change of Visa Status student (J-1 to F-1) may consult with the International Program Office for additional options*