

International Student Admissions

The Division of Graduate Studies seeks to bring students from all parts of the world to the campus. Since English is the language of instruction at the university, students should be prepared to write their theses, examinations, and seminar papers in English. Applicants whose native language is not English must have acquired competence in the English language prior to enrolling in a graduate program or prerequisite courses in order to avoid any delay or difficulty in pursuing their studies.

Graduate English Competency

Graduate and Postbaccalaureate TOEFL/TELTS Requirement. All graduate and postbaccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is not English and whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English must demonstrate competence in English. Applicants who do not possess a bachelor's or graduate degree from a postsecondary institution where English is the principal language of instruction must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing (TELTS). Such applicants must receive a minimum score of 213 on the TOEFL or minimum score of 6.5 on the TELTS. Some graduate programs may require a higher score.

Some CSU campuses may use alternative methods for assessing fluency in English.

It is highly recommended that TOEFL or TELTS scores, Graduate Record Examination General Test scores, or GMAT or MAT scores, application, and official academic documents reach the university International Admissions Office at least six months before the semester for which admission is desired. See program information for specific test scores that may be required.

The TOEFL and TELTS are administered at various centers throughout the world. For locations and dates, check the TOEFL Web site ets.org/toefl or the TELTS Web site ielts.org.

You may also contact the Office of Testing Services at www.csufresno.edu/testing.

Applications for international postbaccalaureate/graduate admission are found online at www.csumentor.edu.

Questions about the international application procedures should be directed to the following:

International Student Services and Programs

California State University, Fresno
5150 North Maple Avenue M/S JA56
Fresno, CA 93740-8026
U.S.A.

intladm@listserv.csufresno.edu

During the first semester at California State University, Fresno, foreign graduate students whose native language is not English may be required to enroll in special courses in English to help improve writing skills and to provide the greatest possibility of success in graduate studies.

Advancement to Candidacy: Eligibility

Advancement to candidacy gives a student permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree and provides the student with a program of study that has been officially reviewed and approved by both the student's faculty and by the graduate dean. This important step confers on the student the status of candidate for the degree and represents a commitment both on the part of the student and the degree program to complete the degree within a specified time limit according to requirements published in a specific university catalog year. Advancement to candidacy is essential to the student in planning for registration in courses. The student should, therefore, meet with his/her graduate program coordinator/director soon after attaining classified graduate standing to discuss advancement to candidacy. Eligibility criteria for advancement to candidacy are as follows:

Deadline. Advancement to candidacy must be attained no later than the semester preceding the semester in which the student applies for the graduate degree to be granted and/or begins the culminating experience. Campus policy requires students to petition for advancement to candidacy as soon as they are eligible to do so. Normally this should occur within one semester of having attained classified graduate standing. Compliance with this policy is necessary for a student to remain in good standing.

Academic/Professional Standards. All students in graduate standing must demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic achievement as revealed by grades and performance on examinations, as well as professional and personal standards and ethical competence as determined by program faculty. This standard must be maintained in order for a student to be eligible to continue in a graduate program and be recommended for candidacy by the department.

Classified Graduate Standing. Classified graduate standing gives a student permission to work toward qualifying for advancement to candidacy. A student should be classified by the semester in which a maximum of one-third of the units to be used toward the graduate degree are completed. (*Exception:* Rehabilitation Counseling requires classification by the completion of 10 program units.) Not more than one-third of the program (including transfer and postbaccalaureate credit) completed before achieving full classified graduate standing at California State University, Fresno may be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Courses taken during the semester in which the student is classified may also be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.

Prerequisites. Any prerequisites prescribed by the student's graduate program coordinator/director and specified in writing must be completed prior to advancement. Prerequisite coursework may not be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy for use toward the degree.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Subject Test. Satisfactory completion of the GRE Subject Test is required of students working toward the Master of Science in Physics.

Departmental Qualifying Examination (DQE). Satisfactory completion of the DQE is required in art, civil engineering, kinesiology, linguistics, mathematics, plant science, Spanish, and viticulture and enology.

Foreign Language Requirement. Demonstration of competence, usually equivalent to that achieved through two years of collegiate study of one foreign language, is required in specified graduate degree programs in which upper-division and graduate courses demand such competence. Competence in the use of a foreign language is required for the Master of Arts in English, History, and Music (vocal performance and choral conducting emphases only), and the Master of Fine Arts