**Proposed Amendment to the General Education Foundations Second Language Requirement**

*Approved by UWGEC, 12/18/2019*

**Relevant section of the** [**catalog policy on the Second Language Requirement**](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/second-language-requirement-undergraduate-degrees)**:**

U.S. students who are native speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department.

International students who are native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the Second Language Requirement with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), provided that it was an admissions requirement and their score was satisfactory for admission to the University of Arizona. Alternatively, in lieu of an acceptable score on one of these standardized tests, an Endorsement from the [**Center for English as a Second Language (CESL)(link is external)**](http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/) may satisfy the Second Language Requirement. U.S. citizens and international students from countries where English is the official language may not use the TOEFL, IELTS, or CESL Endorsement to satisfy the Second Language Requirement; those students must meet the requirement through one of the options stated above.

Note: Current [temporary policy](http://www.advising.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Second%20Language-Temporary%20Measure%206-28-18.pdf) also allows students to meet the requirement by completing the ENGL 107/108 sequence with a minimum “C” grade in ENGL 108. This is also listed on the Admissions website as one way to demonstrate English proficiency for admission to UA.

**Language from the** [**Admissions website page addressing English proficiency**](https://admissions.arizona.edu/how-to-apply/international/english-proficiency)**:**

International applicants whose primary language is not English, or who attended school in a non-English speaking country, regardless of citizenship, must prove English proficiency. English proficiency may be proven by one or more of the following: *(This is followed by a list of options by which a student can prove proficiency.)*

**Rationale for updating the wording:**

Because there are now multiple ways for international student applicants to UA to demonstrate English language proficiency, and because UA is likely to continue to adapt our admissions policy in the future, the catalog wording should be less specific. What is important is to capture the intent of the current policy, which is that students whose primary language is not English, and who have demonstrated sufficient English proficiency to be admitted to UA, have met the General Education Foundations requirement to demonstrate proficiency in two languages.

Additionally, the term “native speaker” is problematic to experts in linguistics and second language acquisition. It is also unnecessary when “speaker” will suffice.

**Proposed new wording:**

U.S. students who are ~~native~~ speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department.

International students whose primary language is not English and who had to prove English proficiency to be admitted to the University have thereby fulfilled the Second Language Requirement.