iTEP INTERNATIONAL **GUIDANCE ON SETTING iTEP SCORES FOR ADMISSIONS PURPOSES**

SCORE DEFINITION FOR ADMISSIONS PURPOSES

iTEP International understands that establishing scores to be used for admissions purposes can be a stressful task. While setting scores too high could result in a high number of false-negative score indications, setting scores too low could possibly lead to students entering programs without the minimum English language proficiency skills required to perform academically. iTEP International encourages institutions to take a multifaceted approach when setting required iTEP scores for admissions. The information and guidance in this brief report is meant to facilitate such an approach.

FOCUS ON CEFR

iTEP recommends that institutions first consult resources related to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to determine the minimum language skills necessary for incoming students. The CEFR descriptors and scales are designed to facilitate the creation of a common understanding of language proficiency within institutions. In this way, CEFR scales and descriptors serve educational professionals and organizational leaders as a sense-making tool in contexts where varying language proficiencies exist. While the CEFR recommendations that iTEP develops and publishes are established based on data and feedback from its stakeholders, we understand that an institution might make reasonable variations on these recommendations based on its unique interpretation of CEFR.

Recently, CEFR has become much more widely known and understood in the U.S. In most cases, U.S. institutions determine that a CEFR user somewhere in the B2 to low C1 range has the minimum language proficiency required to perform at the undergraduate level. Indeed, most programs will set corresponding scores on a proficiency test somewhere within this range. To be clear, some iTEP partner schools set scores that are below and above iTEP's recommended range for a B2low C1 user. Of course, iTEP understands that this is perfectly within the institutions prerogative and emphasizes that the CEFR equivalencies are indeed recommendations. For more explanation on iTEP CEFR recommendations, please find our CEFR Recommendation document at: https://www.itepexam.com/CEFR-Setting Scores.pdf

CEFR RECOMMENDATIONS
& SAMPLE UNIVERSITIES

While there is a range of iTEP scores used by institutions for undergraduate admissions, iTEP generally recommends an overall score of 3.8 for iTEP Academic Plus.

If programs adopt a score above 3.8, iTEP does not recommend cut scores for individual skill areas. If scores below 3.6 are adopted, iTEP recommends cut scores for each of the individual skills at 3.0 or 3.5.

CURRENT CEFR RANGES

iTEP Ranges

CEFR	Current ranges
C2	5.5 - 6.0
C1	4.5 - 5.4
B2	3.5 - 4.4
B1	2.5 - 3.4
A2	2.0 - 2.4
A1	0.0 - 1.9

Sample list of universities accepting iTEP

Institution	iTEP Undergraduate score (Academic-Plus)
SUNY Buffalo	3.5
California University of Pennsylvania	3.5
Loma Linda University	3.5
Frostburg State University	3.6
Humboldt State University	3.7
Missouri Southern State University	3.7
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	3.8
University of Wisconsin	4.0
SUNY Polytechnic	4.4
California State University - Fresno	4.5
New York University	4.5
San Francisco State University	5.0

SETTING THE RIGHT SCORE
GOOD PRACTICES

CONDUCT A PILOT TEST

iTEP International works with institutions to conduct pilot testing of iTEP Academic Plus for the purpose of setting cut-scores. Institutions are able to compare scores with an established evaluation and assessment of students' language proficiency. Pilot testing allows institutions to gauge the effectiveness of iTEP compared to other methods of proficiency assessment.

CONSULT THE iTEP EQUIVALENCY CHART

The iTEP Equivalency chart is created based on data received from partner institutions and analysis of scores attributed to CEFR-aligned curricula.

The equivalency chart is meant to serve as one of many tools in the setting of cut-scores. One frequently asked question regarding the equivalency chart is the narrow range of iTEP scores used to associate with TOEFL and IELTS. This narrow range is due to the character of the scores collected for analysis. The data indicated that the most recognizable plateauing of aggregate scores for iTEP was in the 3.5 – 3.9 levels. In other words, test-takers in language programs that made regular use of iTEP made steady and marked progress until the 3.5 level. After this point, scores did not increase as steadily. However, it was observed that TOEFL and IELTS scores continued to improve for these same test-takers at a steady rate. Of course, iTEP is always seeking to improve and increase the amount of data that is used to create the most accurate equivalency. Again, we encourage programs to use the equivalency chart as one of many factors in the decision-making process.

USING THE RANGES

While CEFR breaks down its proficiency scale descriptors into six levels, the authors of the framework also point out that an appreciable range of proficiency can exist within one scale level. In this way, institutions can decide on which side (high or low) of a particular scale they would like to favor. When iTEP adjusted its CEFR recommendation in the fall of 2016, it sought to provide partners with a wide range to choose from at the most crucial levels, namely B1, B2, and C1. iTEP returns overall scores at a tenth of a point and encourages programs to make use of these detailed scoring levels to allow for setting cut scores at the high, middle, or low range of a chosen CEFR scale.

On-Demand, Internet-Based

English Language Assessment in 90 minutes or less

iTEP—The Ideal Internet-Based English Evaluation Tool For:

- High Schools and Middle Schools
- Boarding Schools
- Intensive English Programs
- Colleges and Universities
- Business and Industry
- Government and Agencies
- Professional Licensing Organizations