Proposed Changes to the existing ESOL programs
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Introduction:

Because of the anticipation of increased enrollment of international students next year, the existing ESOL curriculum should be revised to better serve the needs of the students and to help them equipped with the necessary skills needed to succeed in academia.

The Mission:

The mission of the ESOL Program at Dixie State College of Utah (hereafter, DSC) is to equip students whose first language is other than English with the skills and resources they need to achieve academic success, including progressing toward and reaching graduation at DSC, and to provide them with an integrated educational experience that develops the whole student, academically, socially and personally.

Proposal:

1) TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based) requirement.

Currently, DSC requires all the prospective international students to take TOEFL *computer-based test as part of application for admission. However, the test must be changed to internet-based one instead, which assesses the test takers’ speaking skills, while the computer-based one does not.

*Many people misunderstand that the computer-based- and internet-based tests are the same. The internet-based test is the newer version, which added speaking section.

2) Admission criteria for the ESOL program and DSC degree programs.

a) Unconditional Admission (to the degree programs)

Currently, DSC admits students who scored 173 (500 on the paper-based) or higher (on TOEFL computer-based test) to the degree programs. However, ETS (Educational Testing Services), which administers TOEFL – in addition to others, such as GMAT, GRE, SAT… etc. – recommends the score of 213 (550 on the paper-based) or higher, or 79 or higher on the internet-based test, as a guideline for
admission for undergraduate students. Thus, DSC should modify the required score for admission based on the internet-based test, as proposed below:

i) The score of 61 (173 on the computer-based; 500 on the paper-based) (with a minimum of 15 for each section) or higher if *graduated from U.S. secondary school;

ii) The score of 71 (197 on the computer-based; 530 on the paper-based) (with a minimum of 17 for each section) or higher if not graduated from U.S. secondary school.

*a proof, such as a photocopy of diploma, needs to be submitted

In addition,

iii) A writing requirement needs to be satisfied.

Students who scored 24 or higher for writing section are exempted from this Requirement. However, for those whose scores are below 24, this requirement can be satisfied by either (1) completing ESOL 0500 (Intermediate Academic Writing) with a grade of B (83%) or better or (2) taking the Test of Written English (TWE) and submit a score of 4 or higher. Upon meeting these requirements, students in unconditional admission status will be allowed to register as full-time academic students.

b) **Conditional Admission** (to the ESOL program)

Students who don’t qualify for the above admission status are automatically admitted to the ESOL program. Based on their TOEFL iBT score, students are placed into one of four different levels: Introduction, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Introductory, Basic and Intermediate levels students are required to take a full-time ESOL curriculum, while advanced students are permitted to take one or two academic classes (up to 4 credits) with the ESOL instructor’s and the academic instructor’s recommendation.

(3) **Exit Criteria**

In order to exit the ESOL program and matriculate as full-time academic students, students must: (1) pass all their required ESL courses with a minimum grade of B (83%) or better; (2) score 21 or higher for each section on TOEFL iBT. This test is administered to all advanced level students each semester until they achieve the minimum required scores and matriculate as regular, full-time academic students of the college.

(4) **ETS-Authorized TOEFL iBT Testing Center**

TOEFL iBT should be made available at DSC to the advanced level students who are
attempting to exit the ESOL program, as well as others who are taking the test for placement purposes, or even for those who reside in St. George area. In addition, the administration of TOEFL iBT at DSC will help recruit prospective international students.

(5) Establishment of Intensive ESOL Center (ideally, from fall 2010).

Intensive ESL Center will play a vital role in not only ‘training’ non-English speaking students to be better speakers of the target language, but also giving them counseling and advisement on ESOL-related matters. I propose that I not only supervise the center, but also recruit and train the newly-hired faculty as needed.

(6) International Student Fee

A $150 per semester student fee should be charged to cover activities and events designed specifically for international students and to better acquaint them with St. George area.