English Language Tests

The TOEFL®-iBT and the IELTS are the two most widely used tools for measuring English fluency. A good score on either of these tests indicates to universities and employers the individual’s readiness to succeed in a fast-paced English speaking environment.

Most English speaking universities all over the world, including universities in the U.S., Canada, U.K., South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, among others, accept both TOEFL®-iBT and IELTS results for admission. Both tests measure the same set of skills. The skills measured are reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. Below is a snapshot of the two tests:

TOEFL

The Test of English as a Foreign Language is an internet based test. The TOEFL®-iBT consists of four sections, each measuring one of the four language skills. All four sections are completed in the same sitting, with the speaking section recorded in the computer. The TOEFL®-iBT is based on American English.

IELTS

The International English Language Testing System is a paper-based test. The IELTS consists of four courses, each measuring one of the four language skills. The first three courses are taken at the same time. The speaking course may be taken in the seven days before or after the other three courses and consists of a live, in-person interview. The IELTS is based on a variety of dialects.

Who Needs to Take the TOEFL®-iBT or IELTS?

• Students applying to attend an English speaking university whose high school or undergraduate instruction was not conducted in English.
• Nurses who wish to become licensed in the U.S. whose education occurred outside the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, New Zealand, or Ireland with textbooks not in English.
• Foreign professionals who want to become licensed to practice in the U.S.
• Some companies/corporations might require prospective employees show English proficiency by providing a TOEFL®-iBT or IELTS score

Education that WORKS!

BIR is a private, postsecondary school for technical, business, and language learning. BIR has been educating students since 1993 and enjoys the reputation of a friendly institution serving the needs of a diverse student body.

Affordable tuition and no-interest payment plan are available. Student aid is not available for the Test Preparation Program.

BIR Training Center is authorized under Federal law to enroll F-1 non-immigrant alien students.

Call BIR and speak with a Student Relations Specialist about TOEFL®-iBT, IELTS, GMAT, or NCLEX Preparation at BIR 773-866-0111 or email: contact@birtraining.edu

Chicago Locations*

Main: 3601 W. Devon Ave., 60659
Loop: 828 S. Wabash Ave., 60605
Belmont: 6240 W. Belmont Ave., 60634
O’Hare: 5440 N. Cumberland Ave., 60656

*Not all programs available at all locations
BIR Training Center’s Test Preparation Program - Your Path to Academic and Professional Success

Workshops & Streams:
Workshops are instructor-led sessions on skills-based or general interest topics. Students collaborate on assignments, and this interaction allows them to learn together. Each course includes two workshops. Workshops are available on the following topics:

Skills-based Labs:
Reading, Speaking, Listening, Writing, Vocabulary, Grammar, Debate

General Interest Workshops:

Streams:
For students who want in-depth knowledge on a specific topic, BIR offers Stream certificates. Stream certificates are awarded upon the successful completion of three labs or workshops in an area of concentration. Stream certificates are available in the following areas: Test Prep Labs: (Reading, Speaking, Listening, Writing, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Debate), GMAT, NCLEX, Business, Hospitality & Tourism, American Workplace, Journalism, Medical English, and Computer Technology.

Availability Schedule:

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Lectures:
The Test Preparation Program is 6 courses, each course consists of 7 weeks of instruction. There are 3 courses that focus on test structure and practice and 3 university level English skills courses that intensively focus on the skills measured on the TOEFL and IELTS exams.

Test Overview

ELP 049 Gateway to TOEFL®-iBT
Provides an introduction to the structure of the TOEFL®-iBT test. Students learn testing tips that maximize scores as they practice with authentic exam materials.

Measured Skills

ELP 050 Academic Preparation Reading and Speaking
Students learn to organize effective notes as they listen and use their notes to make effective oral arguments. By the end of this course students are able to confidently speak extemporaneously in front of groups.

ELP 051 Academic Preparation Reading
Students learn to identify important information quickly and understand rhetorical purpose and the author's point of view. By the end of the course students are able understand and use university level written material to learn.

ELP 052 Academic Preparation Writing
Students learn to evaluate and compare ideas, explain causes/effects, narrate events, and present arguments. By the conclusion, students will have the vocabulary skills necessary to create cohesive academic and professional essays.

Test Practice

ELP 053 IELTS Testing Practice
Focuses on an in-depth analysis of the structure of paper-based tests like the IELTS and provides advanced level practice.

ELP 054 TOEFL®-iBT Testing Practice
Focuses on in-depth analysis all four sections of the TOEFL®-iBT and provides advanced practice in an authentic Internet-based test setting.

Individual Learning:
The Learning Center is a supportive environment conducive to individualized student learning. It is a great resource for students to use in order to achieve their best score on the TOEFL®-iBT, IELTS, GMAT, or GRE exam.

Ten great reasons BIR students come to the Learning Center:
1. Skills assessment that identifies the student's needs
2. Individual study plan so the student can achieve a realistically high score on their test
3. Immediate feedback accelerates learning and address the individual needs of the student
4. Intensive small group and one-on-one tutoring sessions on TOEFL or IELTS
5. Small group study halls tailored to the specific needs of the group
6. Lending library that offers TOEFL®-iBT and IELTS study materials and sample tests
7. Test taking practice in authentic environments so students know what to expect on test day
8. Guidance identifying U.S. colleges for the student's intended field of study
9. Review of Statement of Purpose for students applying to graduate school in the U.S.
10. On-demand tutoring sessions through PLUS Services

Learning Center Resources:

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This is a sample path, individual student paths may vary.