

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Procedure Manual

Procedure: 411.5 International Applicant

Effective: April 15, 2026

1. Admission Requirements: An International Applicant as defined in Policy 411 must satisfy the following requirements to be eligible for consideration of admissions:
 - a. Completion of the institution's application for admission for each NDUS institution.
 - b. Each institution to which the applicant applies may charge an admission fee.
 - c. Validation of secondary education completion:
 - i. Official high school transcript or academic records that proves completion of secondary education.
 - ii. A U.S. General Education Diploma (GED) administered in English.
 - iii. Applicants who have completed 24 semester credits or more or 36 quarter hours or more of transferrable credits post-secondary shall be admitted to the institution if:
 1. Applicant is not on dismissed or suspension status at their most recent institution attended;
 2. Baccalaureate applicants must present a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale computed on all transferable work attempted at all institutions previously attended; and
 3. Applicant satisfies any additional criteria established at the institution for the selective admission of applicant to the institution or selected institution programs.
 - d. Official college or university transcripts may be used for admission purposes or for the evaluation of credit to be transferred.
 - e. An NDUS institution shall require that international transcripts and credentials be evaluated before they are used for admission purposes. Such an evaluation is the sole responsibility of the applicant, and it must be performed by one of the following:
 - i. Active member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES); or
 - ii. Active member of the Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE).

- iii. Institutions may elect to perform some evaluations of transcripts and credentials from specific countries through the use of trained admission staff.
 - iv. The transcript will be considered as official as a photocopy attached to a credential evaluation performed.
- f. Applicants whose native language is not English shall demonstrate proficiency in the English language through one of following options listed below. Institutions shall have the discretion to use higher secondary admission criteria and English proficiency scores for specific programs. English proficiency scores will expire after two years.
 - i. College Composition I and College Composition II, or equivalent courses, with a grade of B or higher from a regionally accrediting organization or national recognized agencies;
 - ii. English standardized measures listed in Procedure 413.1(2);
 - iii. At least two years of study, in good standing at one of the following:
 - 1. U.S. high school;
 - 2. Regionally accrediting organization;
 - 3. Nationally recognized agencies; or
 - 4. Post-secondary institutions with English as the language of instruction to include a minimum of 6 credits in subjects that require reading and/or speaking with a B or higher (not to include ELS courses).
 - iv. A degree or diploma from an institution in which English was the language of instruction;
 - v. A U.S. General Education Diploma (GED) (from 2014 or later) administered in English:
 - 1. For Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Dickinson State University, Lake Region State College, Mayville State University, Minot State University, North Dakota State College of Science, Valley City State University and Williston State College, a GED of 145;
 - 2. For North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota, a GED of 165; and
 - 3. Applicants with GED scores prior to 2014 must meet prior requirements for successful completion of a GED.
 - vi. A minimum score from one to the following shall be recognized by NDUS institutions for undergraduate admission: The International English Language

Testing Systems (IELTS), Pearson Test of Academic English (PTE-A), Michigan English Test (MET), Duolingo English Test (DET), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Cambridge English Qualifications (CES). Institutions may establish higher minimum score requirements for undergraduate and graduate admission:

1. Research institutions – North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota
 - a. IELTS – 6.0
 - b. PTE-A – 48
 - c. MET – 57
 - d. DET – 105
 - e. TOEFL:
 - i. Internet-based test (iBT) score of 71 for exams taken prior to January 21, 2026;
 - ii. iBT score of 3.5 for exams taken on or after January 21, 2026.
 - f. CES – 170
2. Regional institutions – Dickinson State University, Minot State University, Mayville State University, and Valley City State University:
 - a. IELTS – 6.0
 - b. PTE-A – 47
 - c. MET – 55
 - d. DET – 105
 - e. TOEFL:
 - i. iBT score of 68 for exams taken prior to January 21, 2026;
 - ii. iBT score of 3.5 or exams taken on or after January 21, 2026.
 - f. CES – 170

3. Community Colleges – Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College, North Dakota State College of Science, and Williston State College
 - a. IELTS – 5.5
 - b. PTE-A – 46
 - c. MET – 53
 - d. DET – 100
 - e. TOEFL:
 - i. iBT score of 65 for exams taken prior to January 21, 2026;
 - ii. iBT score of 3.5 or exams taken on or after January 21, 2026
 - f. CES – 165
- vii. Other demonstrations of proficiency approved by the Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer.
- g. Each institution may require proof of course placement as defined in Procedure 413.1.
- h. Each institution may require documentation of immunity as defined in Policy 506 and Procedure 506.
- i. Applicants are required to submit proof of financial resources before an I-20 is issued, respectively, for F-1, M-1, or J-1 U.S. visa:
 - i. F-1 visa applicant: Must provide evidence that sufficient funds are immediately available or assurances of support necessary to pay all tuition and living costs for the first year of study and provide projected adequate funds that will be available for each subsequent year of study. Evidence of financial ability includes but is not limited to family bank statement, documentation from a sponsor, financial aid letters, scholarship letters, or a letter from an employer showing annual salary.
 - ii. M-1 and J-1 visa applicant: Must provide evidence that sufficient funds are immediately available or assurances of support necessary to pay all tuition and living costs for the entire period of intended stay.

REFERENCE: Policy 506; Procedures 413.2, 506

HISTORY: New procedure, Chancellor’s Cabinet minutes, October 13, 2021; Amendment, Chancellor’s Cabinet minutes, March 9, 2022; Amendment, Chancellor’s Cabinet minutes, January 12, 2023; Amendment, Chancellor’s Cabinet minutes, May 10, 2023; Nonsubstantive

amendment, September 6, 2023; Amendment, Chancellor's Cabinet minutes, April 11, 2024; Amendment, SBHE Meeting minutes, September 23, 2025; Amendment, Presidents Council minutes, April 15, 2026.