

American Language Institute (ALI) Requirements for Transfers to an Undergraduate Degree Program

The ALI focuses on English training while emphasizing university preparation and academic skills. In other words, it is designed to give students the language and academic skills necessary for U.S. university study.

ALI Admission:

- Students do not need a minimum TOEFL score in order to be admitted to the ALI. However, the ALI is not a program for “true beginners”. True beginners are students who cannot say and understand simple English sentences. Students must have some ability to read, write and speak English.
- Students do not need a minimum TOEFL score to get the Conditional Eligibility-Admission letter. However, they may want to consider their English level before coming to ALI with conditional eligibility-admission.
- Students do not need to complete all ALI levels to attend SF State; students with higher English levels ~~may do~~ may be able to transfer to a degree program after one semester of language studies. However, a student who begins their ALI studies at a lower English level may have to study more than one semester. For example, a student who has an English language equivalence of iBT score of 28, or IELTS 3.5, may need three sessions of English instruction before they meet their SF State admission requirements.

Undergraduate Admissions:

- Students who enroll in the American Language Institute (ALI) with conditional eligibility-admission must meet SF State University’s English language proficiency requirements before gaining admissions to a degree program. These requirements can be met at the ALI with either of the following 2 TOEFL waivers.

Note: Students do not need to complete the highest ALI level to receive either TOEFL waiver.

Waiver 1: Placement in and successful completion of ALI advanced intermediate level (46) and required score on ALI English proficiency test, administered twice each semester.

OR

Waiver 2: Successful completion of ALI pre-advanced level (47). There is no English proficiency score required for Waiver #2.

- Students who apply through the ALI for admission to SF State Undergraduate non-impacted programs are able to apply after the published deadlines during their semester of study at the ALI.

Impacted Programs:

Students who are applying to impacted undergraduate majors (see list of impacted programs: <http://www.sfsu.edu/future/apply/international.html#impacted>) should research the department deadlines and must apply by themselves before the published deadline. Impacted deadlines are usually before ALI session starts. Impacted programs are not eligible for conditional eligibility-admission. Freshmen and sophomore (1st & 2nd year) transfer students need to apply to a pre-major for impacted programs, such Pre-Biology. These pre-majors are eligible for a letter of conditional eligibility-admissions.

ALI students can apply by themselves to SF State University by the published application deadlines, which may be before they study at the ALI. Students must complete their language requirement prior to the university’s published deadline for submitting iBT, IELTS, or Pearson scores for admission to a degree program.