



Listening. Learning. Leading.®



The **TOEFL**® and **GRE**® Tests
Helping Recruit the Best Students

TOEFL iBT™ Update

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Meeting the Needs of Graduate Education



What English language abilities do your international students need?

- Communicate effectively using all four language skills
 - Read text, listen to lectures, give presentations, write papers
- Communicate at the high level of rigor demanded by graduate study
 - Combine skills to analyze, summarize, synthesize, defend, and argue a point of view
- Teach undergraduates
- Able to fully participate in academic life



Meeting the Needs of Graduate Education



TOEFL® iBT meets those needs

- Emphasis on measuring the ability to **use** English effectively for communication
- Integrated test questions ask students to summarize, evaluate, compare and synthesize information from multiple sources
- Test tasks authentic to graduate study
- 100% academic content
- Backed by extensive and ongoing research to ensure validity



Scoring You Can Trust



How a test is scored is a critical component of score validity





Important Questions to Ask About Scoring

- Is scoring done by human raters, an automated process, or both?
- If human raters are used, are they calibrated and monitored frequently and consistently for quality control?
- Is rating kept separate and distinct from the test administration process to ensure secure, fair and objective scoring?



Scoring You Can Trust



The TOEFL® test - unbiased, objective, secure

- Separate the testing administration and scoring process
- Raters see and hear worldwide responses – not just from one country
- Raters do not know the examinee
- Three to six raters anonymously score six Speaking responses
- Four ratings for two Writing responses



Scoring You Can Trust



Highly trained raters, constantly monitored

- New raters must complete training and pass a certification test
- Must pass calibration test each time they begin scoring or change to a different question type
- Review exemplar responses after a break to refocus attention
- Continually monitored by Scoring Leaders



Scoring You Can Trust



Combining the best of human and automated scoring

July 2009 - TOEFL® program began to use the *e-rater*® automated scoring engine in a limited way for Writing

- Integrated writing question
 - Two human raters
- Independent writing question
 - One human rater + one automated rating

e-rater® does an excellent job of consistently evaluating mechanical aspects of language



Risks of Using Only Automated Scoring



- Automated scoring cannot measure content and meaning at a significant level
- Questions designed for automated scoring are more coachable and promote rote memorization, not practice of real communication skills
- Questions and resultant scores cannot get at the level of proficiency demanded at the graduate level



The Highest Standards of Scoring



- The TOEFL® iBT integrated tasks require test takers to combine skills and formulate responses at a complex level
- Today no automated scoring can evaluate content and meaning at the sophisticated level tested by TOEFL iBT's integrated tasks
- Providing you with a more comprehensive picture of a student's ability to communicate at the graduate level

Scoring that combines

- The judgment of human scoring for content and meaning
- The consistency of automated scoring for mechanical features



New in 2009 - Online Speech Samples



- Scored speech response to an actual integrated speaking task from the test
- Extemporaneous response, not prepared in advance
- 60 seconds in length
- Responses available for those testing June 12, 2009 onward
- Register for free service and sign confidentiality statement at www.ets.org/toefl/speechsample

