



**Position Paper Title:** English language courses and programs

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**Related Policies:** [ACAOM Standards and Criteria Manual: Master’s Level and Postgraduate Doctoral \(DAOM\)](#); [Standards and Criteria: Professional Doctorate \(PD\)](#)

**References:** [Public Law 111-306](#)

**Responsible Official:** ACAOM Executive Director

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### Background

The Department of Homeland Security and its Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) does not set an English language proficiency requirement necessary for an international applicant to qualify for a student visa (I-20). Rather, SEVP defers to and trusts I-20 visa sponsoring schools to establish their own English proficiency admissions requirements that comply with standards mandated by their corresponding states and accreditors.

International applicants not meeting a sponsoring school’s English proficiency admissions standards may choose to enroll in an intensive English language training program offered by a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party language training institute. In such instances, the intensive English language training program/institute must hold accreditation status with a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary of Education before it can grant I-20 visas.

Should a school that is not an intensive language institute elect to offer an intensive English language course or program “in-house” to help applicants meet English language proficiency admissions standard, unless the school holds regional or national institutional accreditation, the school’s English language training program must be accredited by the [Commission on English Accreditation](#) (CEA).

### Revision History

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By