

TOEFL FAQs

WHAT IS THE TOEFL TEST?

The TOEFL is an English language assessment test used to measure reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. The complete test takes about 4.5 hours.

READING	60-80 minutes	36-56 questions	Read 3 or 4 academic passages and answer questions
LISTENING	60-90 minutes	34-51 questions	Listen to academic lectures and discussions; answer questions
<i>BREAK</i>	<i>10 minutes</i>		
SPEAKING	20 minutes	6 tasks	Speak about 2 opinion questions, 4 reading/listening tasks
WRITING	50 minutes	2 essays	Write one opinion essay (30 minutes); one integrated (20 minutes) essay

WHAT SCORE DO I NEED TO GET ON THE TOEFL?

Each of the four sections of the test is 30 points, for a total of 120 points. Most institutions require a score of 80/120 or higher. Some institutions don't require the TOEFL if you have completed English 111/112. You should contact the institution directly for TOEFL requirements.

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER FOR THE TEST?

You should register as early as possible (at least two to three months before your test date), since seats fill up quickly. Your test date should be at least two months before your earliest application deadline. You can register online at toefl.org.

WHERE CAN I TAKE THE TEST?

There are many places in Boston where you can take the test. The ACT Center @ BHCC offers the TOEFL two Fridays a month, but seats for the test are very limited, so you need to register far in advance.

CAN I TAKE THE TEST MORE THAN ONCE?

You can take the test as many times as you want, but remember that the test costs \$175.00 each time you take it. You can only take it once during a calendar month. Your score is good for two years after your test date.

WHEN SHOULD I START PREPARING FOR THE TEST?

If you think you might need the TOEFL at any time in the future, you should start preparing NOW, by familiarizing yourself with the test and working on any weaknesses you have in your English and/or test-taking skills.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

Most students who have taken the TOEFL say that the best way to prepare is to take as many practice tests as possible, so that you are familiar and comfortable with the test. Even if your English level is very high, you should consider taking practice TOEFL tests, taking a TOEFL class, or meeting with a tutor who can help you with TOEFL, to make sure you get the score you need.

TOEFL @ BHCC

The **LANGUAGE LAB** offers the following to help you get the score you need on the TOEFL test:

- Complete TOEFL practice exams: you can take a complete test or part of the test anytime during Lab hours.
- Comprehensive TOEFL materials: you can borrow TOEFL books, CD-ROMs, and CDs for use within the Lab, and learn about many internet links to help you study for the test.
- Individual TOEFL tutoring: you can meet one-on-one with an experienced TOEFL tutor, who will provide individual assessment, test-taking strategies, and feedback on all parts of the test.
- TOEFL Workshops and Study Groups: you can attend TOEFL skills workshops and study groups throughout the semester to help you succeed on the test. BHCC Community Education (617-228-2462) also offers a TOEFL course.

For more information about the TOEFL Test, contact:

BHCC Language Lab

Room E226A (inside the CSDL)

617-228-3440 or 617-228-3336