



Report on the Task Force for the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test Passing Standards

Members Present:

Larry Mokhiber (NY) *chair*; Thomas F. Bender, Jr (NJ); Edith Goodmaster (CT); Linda Kott (IL); Anne Policastri (KY); Kenneth Wells (OR)

Others Present:

Carmen Catizone, Maria Boyle, William Finnerty, Joy Matthews-Lopez, Lori Schumacher, Emily Shaffer, *NABP staff*

Guests:

Susan Nissan, Eileen Tyson, Jeanne Malloy, Marian Crandall, Catherine Moore; Educational Testing Service (ETS) facilitators and observers

Introduction:

The Task Force on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT) passing standards met July 9-10, 2013, at NABP Headquarters. The task force was established to evaluate the appropriate passing standards deemed necessary for candidates to achieve in pursuit of Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) Certification.

Review of the Task Force Charge:

Task force members reviewed their charge and accepted it as follows:

1. Conduct a standard setting exercise pursuant to a recommendation for the minimum passing scores required for the successful completion of the TOEFL iBT requirement of the FPGEC Certification.

Recommendation: NABP Should Revise the TOEFL iBT Scores

The TOEFL iBT Task Force recommends that NABP adopt the following minimal passing TOEFL iBT scores for FPGEC Certification requirements:

<i>Recommended Scaled Scores</i>		<i>Current Scaled Scores</i>	
Writing	24	Writing	24
Speaking	26	Speaking	26
Listening	21	Listening	18
Reading	22	Reading	21

The task force agreed that no change should be made in the passing standard from what is currently in place for the writing and speaking sections. However, it is recommending that the current standards of 18 and 21 be increased to 21 and 22 for listening and reading, respectively.

Background:

Task force members began focusing on their charge by engaging in a series of exercises designed to provide them with the tools and information needed to evaluate the components (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) of the TOEFL iBT. The FPGEC currently uses the TOEFL iBT as a partial requirement in the fulfillment for certification. Candidates for certification are required to pass all four sections of the TOEFL iBT in one testing session. Members evaluated and discussed each section, taking into account the expectations of the language proficiencies for a pharmacist skilled in each of the respective areas.

ETS provided the members with sample learning materials, including audio and video aids, in order to simulate the testing experience and evaluate a variety of examples in English proficiency. The members were tasked with assessing the minimally acceptable standards and making appropriate judgments on the expectations for the performance of a non-native English-speaking individual for all four of the language proficiencies.

The members asked that an impact analysis be conducted on FPGEC candidate scores to compare previously adopted passing standards to the task force outcomes. A follow-up teleconference was held on August 7, 2013 to discuss the impact of the results from the standard setting exercise and the comparable current scaled scores. Members ultimately agreed to recommend an adjustment in the minimum passing scores to the Advisory Committee on Examinations (ACE) and to the Executive Committee.