

FAQ on PREP ENGLISH PROGRAM

Q: Do you accept IELTS or TOEFL iBT test scores that were taken online?

A: No, only standardized tests that were taken at an authorized testing center are accepted.

Q: Do you accept IELTS scores that include one skill retake scores?

A: Yes, as long as the initial test score falls within the 1-year time frame for acceptable scores.

Q: I took my IELTS or TOEFL iBT over 12 months ago and the certificate says it's valid for two years. Can I still use it to skip the PEP?

A: KFUPM accepts IELTS or TOEFL iBT tests that are within 12 months from the start of classes. Special cases may be considered for very high English proficiency.

Q: When is the deadline to submit my IELTS or TOEFL iBT scores to the Preparatory English Program?

A: Scores must be submitted prior to the first day of classes.

Q: Can I move down a level if I think the level I'm in is too hard?

A: English Placement tests are highly accurate. Moving down a level wastes student time and university resources. Therefore, it is not possible to move down a level once student placement is completed.

Q: Can I move up a level if I think the level I'm placed in is too easy?

A: English Placement tests are highly accurate. The first week of each course is primarily review of known materials. Most students find the first week easier than subsequent weeks. Studying at a level that is too difficult will cause students to become frustrated and will likely result in a failing grade. Therefore, it is not possible to move up a level once student placement is completed.

Q: What if the Placement Test puts me into ENGL03 but then the TOEFL test says I should be in ENGL02 (or some similar 'lower' level based on initial scores)?

A: The highest level achieved on either test will be the level at which the student is placed.

Q: What if the Placement Test puts me into ENGL01 but then the TOEFL test says I should be in ENGL02 (or some similar 'higher' level based on initial scores)?

A: The highest level achieved on either test will be the level at which the student is placed.

Q: What happens if I fail an English course?

A: Students who fail an English course the first time must retake that course the following module, as long as it is still within the same academic year.

Q: What happens if I have a second failing grade for an English course that I already failed once before?

A: Students who fail the same English course twice are dismissed from the university.

Q: Will I be dismissed from the university if I fail twice, but they are two different courses?

A: No, but it will be difficult to complete the full PEP course of study within one academic year. A third failure at any level will lead to dismissal from the university.

Q: Can I change sections to be in another section at the same level?

A: No. The only acceptable excuse for changing sections is if a student fails a course, retakes the course, and has the same teacher for the repeated course. Students cannot change sections for any other reason.

Q: I am a female student and have a male teacher. Am I allowed to go to his office for office hours?

A: Male teachers offices are in the male side of the PYP complex and female students are not permitted to enter that area. However, male teachers can have their office hours in the female library if they reserve a desk in advance.

Q: Who should I speak to if I have a problem?

A: There are various people to help you, depending on your problem. The first person you may want to speak to is your teacher. Your teacher may be able to solve your problem or he/she may refer you to the PEP Director or one of the Program Managers. You can visit the Director or either of the Program Managers in their office anytime from 8:00 am-4:00 pm (excluding the lunch hour). They are also available via email or on MS Teams.

- ✓ Director-Mr. Barrett Brookshire (brookshire@kfupm.edu.sa), Building 58 office 3006
- ✓ Program Manager: Mr. Uzair Ahmad (uzair.ahmad@kfupm.edu.sa), Building 58 office 3004
- ✓ Program Manager: Mrs. Sidra Aslam (sidra.aslam@kfupm.edu.sa), Building 58 office 2004

Q: Do I need a computer or tablet for my courses at KFUPM?

A: All students are encouraged to have a computer or tablet. The Prep English Program uses computer or iPad software for all exams. Having your own device will make taking exams in the PEP easier for you. Many courses offer digital versions of textbooks or have digital resources that will help you learn better. Having your own personal device will aid you in accessing these resources.

Q: I don't have my own device. Will the university provide one for me?

A: Students are allowed to use computer labs for assessments and some classes. KFUPM does not provide students personal computers or devices that they can use outside the assessment time. Students are strongly encouraged to have their own device, either laptop PC, Macintosh laptop or iPad. Android based tablets are not compatible with all course software.