

Streaming Criteria for the Common Core English Communication (E-Comm) Pathways

Academic Year 2024-25

Students are required to complete 6 credits of English Communication (E-Comm) under the Common Core Program. They are streamed into two pathways according to their English qualifications on admission. Details about the courses for the two pathways can be found in <https://cle.hkust.edu.hk/courses/common-core/english>

Pathway 1: for students who have met the English admission requirement

Pathway 2: for students whose proficiency level is beyond the English language admission requirement

Please also read carefully the **Important Notes** at the bottom of the table below.

| English Qualifications | Pathway 1 | Threshold for Pathway 2 |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| IELTS | All grades or scores below the threshold for Pathway 2 in the qualifications specified; & All other English qualifications not specified (including JEE) | 6.5 (with no subscore lower than 6.0) |
| TOEFL Paper-based (PBT) | | 575, and 4.5 on TWE |
| TOEFL Internet-based (iBT) | | 91, and 21 on Writing |
| TOEFL Paper-delivered (rPDT) | | 69 (with no subscore lower than 22) |
| HKALE: Use of English | | C (with no subscore lower than C) |
| HKDSE: Eng | | 5 (with no subscore lower than 4) |
| C1 (formerly known as “Cambridge English: Advanced” and “Certificate in Advanced English: CAE”) | | C |
| AP: Eng Lang & Comp / Eng Lit & Comp | | 4 |
| IB: Eng A Lit (HL & SL) / Eng A Lang & Lit (HL & SL) / Eng Lit & Perf (SL) | | 4 |
| IB: Eng B (HL & SL) | | 5 |
| IGCSE/GCSE/GCEOL: Eng Lang & Lit / Eng (First Lang) / Lit in Eng | | A or 7 |
| IGCSE (Edexcel): Eng Lang / Eng Lang A / Eng Lang B / Eng Lit | | A or 7 |
| IGCSE (Edexcel): Eng (as 2nd lang) | | A* or 8 |
| Malaysia SPM: Eng Lang 1119 GCEOL | | B |
| GCE AL & AS: Eng / Eng Lit / Eng General Paper | B | |

Important Notes:

- For any qualification to be valid for streaming, it must have been obtained in the two years before a student is admitted to HKUST, i.e. if the student admitted in 2024, the grade or score must have been obtained in 2022, 2023 or 2024.
- Course streaming should be done based on students' highest qualification obtained. For example, a JEE student with IELTS 6.5 (with no subscore lower than 6.0) should be streamed to Pathway 2, instead of Pathway 1.
- For submission of English Language qualifications for streaming, students please present physical true copy of their public exam results to the Academic Registry (Room 1381, 1/F, Academic Building, Lifts 17-18).

If you have questions about your pathway or English courses that you should take, [contact an advisor](#).