

## **English Proficiency: Policy & Procedures**

Students applying for the Professional Licensing Program at Discoverypoint School of Massage must have a certain level of proficiency in English — both written and verbal — in order to fully participate in class, understand the material being taught, and pass the requirements of the program.

Multilingual and second-language English speakers may be required to demonstrate English proficiency in order to be accepted into the program.

Discoverypoint currently offers classes only in English, and we recommend that students do not rely heavily on translation technology during class. Students should be able to understand class lectures in real time, participate directly in class activities, complete assignments, and pass exams written in English.

The MBLEx (the final exam required by the state of Washington prior to becoming licensed, administered by an agency independent of the school) is offered only in English or Spanish — 100 questions which must be completed in 2 hours or less — and translation technology is not allowed in the testing centers.

**Students (and applicants) whose first language is not English must be able to demonstrate English proficiency at a CEFR B2 (Upper-Intermediate) level or higher, as shown by one of the following:**

- **Duolingo** English Test score of 90 or above
- **CASAS** score of 221–235
- **Oxford Online Placement Test** at B2 or above
- **TOEFL iBT** score of 72 or above (or IELTS score of 6.0 or above)

Descriptions of the CEFR and resources for each of these assessments can be found on the following page.

Students applying for the program are encouraged to take one of these exams to determine their own level of proficiency. Applicants are welcome to share their scores with the school during the application process. For proficiency scores lower than the recommended, students are encouraged to take ESL (English as a Second Language) classes or tutoring in order to gain proficiency prior to enrollment.

Once enrolled, **Discoverypoint students are not allowed to use translation technology during written exams, practical assessments** (for hands-on skills), **or during Student Clinic** (giving massage sessions to clients, which will include verbal intakes and interviews in English).

Accommodations we may allow:

- Students can (and are encouraged) to ask instructors about unfamiliar words and terminology.
- Students can use translation technology during class, occasionally, as needed. We recommend this be limited to occasional, intermittent use — not frequent or continuous.
- Students can use translation technology for take-home tests, quizzes, and assignments — as long as written answers and responses are provided in English.
- Students can use translation technology for comprehension of printed or electronic textbooks, digital handouts (ie. PDF files), websites, and other materials provided by the school.
- Students may schedule exams outside of class time to allow more time for completion — although this may incur additional cost. *(Please note: the MBLEx does not accommodate extra time for language needs.)*

### Descriptions and Resources

The **Common European Framework of Reference** for Languages (CEFR) provides a widely accepted measure of language proficiency. The CEFR levels range from A1 (“basic user”) to C2 (“proficient user”).

<b>Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)</b>	
<i>Description</i>	<i>CEFR level (1= lower, 2 = upper)</i>
A = Beginners level	A1, A2
B = Intermediate level	B1, B2
C = Advanced level	C1, C2

**Discoverypoint expects an English proficiency at a CEFR B2 (Upper-Intermediate) level or higher** in order to fully participate in classes, understand the material being taught, and pass the requirements of the program.

- **Duolingo English Test** — [englishtest.duolingo.com](https://englishtest.duolingo.com)
  - Cost: \$65
  - Online, fully remote, adaptive test, free practice test; results in 2 days.
  - Recommended score: 90–100 ≈ CEFR B2.
  
- **CASAS – Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems** — [www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org)
  - Cost: \$15 to \$20
  - Recommended score: CASAS scale score 221–235 ≈ CEFR B2.
  
- **Oxford Online Placement Test (OOPT)** — [oxfordenglishtesting.com](https://oxfordenglishtesting.com)
  - Cost: \$12 to \$15
  - Online, auto-scored, quick (about 45 minutes).
  - Produces CEFR level results (A1–C2); recommended score ≈ “B2 or above.”
  
- **TOEFL iBT / IELTS Academic** — [toeflibt.ets.org](https://toeflibt.ets.org)
  - Cost: \$200+
  - Recommended score: TOEFL iBT 72+ or IELTS 6.0 ≈ CEFR B2.