



CaMLA

The name  
admissions  
professionals  
trust



**MELAB**

Michigan English Language Assessment Battery

## About us

Cambridge Michigan Language Assessments (CaMLA) combines the language assessment expertise of two world-class universities. Our English exams are shaped by research and the experience of serving millions of learners worldwide, meeting the needs of those wishing to live, study, or work in North America.

Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, CaMLA provides a range of assessment and learning tools, including the well-known suite of University of Michigan exams. We work with colleges and universities, education departments and ministries, businesses, and governmental agencies to deliver language assessments in more than 150 countries around the world.

Our expanding global network of test centers and recognizing organizations makes CaMLA a logical choice for prospective international students. Throughout the USA and Canada, colleges and universities trust CaMLA as a standard of excellence in English language assessment.

## About the MELAB

The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) is aimed primarily at nonnative speakers who require an English qualification for admission to academic programs. It evaluates advanced-level proficiency in English and is widely recognized by colleges, universities, and professional credentialing organizations.

- Accepting the MELAB alongside the TOEFL® or IELTS™ can make your institution more attractive to international students.
- Since 1985, the MELAB has incorporated ongoing developments in assessment and language-testing research to serve the needs of institutions and test takers. The success our recognizing organizations continue to have with the MELAB is testament to its validity and appropriateness.

Information helpful in interpreting MELAB scores, including a concordance study with the TOEFL, can be found on the CaMLA website. The CaMLA team is available to consult about the appropriateness of MELAB for admissions and how scores are used by various institutions.

**Does your institution accept the MELAB for admission purposes?**

**"We have found the [MELAB] results to be extremely helpful as part of our admissions evaluation . . . CaMLA staff have also always been very responsive to questions and are a group that we can rely upon not only for test results, but also for professional collaboration."**

Cindy Gould  
Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
University of Michigan

## MELAB test format

The MELAB, a paper-and-pencil test, is designed to measure proficiency in the four basic skill areas: writing, listening, reading, and speaking. It represents, in terms of content and level, the language students will encounter in a North American university setting, and the tasks provide opportunities for test takers to display autonomous, independent, and spontaneous language use.

## Format and content of the MELAB

### Composition

An impromptu composition on a given topic, which is graded for development of ideas, clarity of expression, and language range and accuracy (30 minutes)

### Listening

An audio-recorded test consisting of short questions, short conversations, and extended radio interviews, which test both general and detailed listening comprehension (35 minutes)

### Grammar, Cloze, Vocabulary, Reading (GCVR)

110 multiple-choice questions that test the ability to understand and make independent use of academic language (80 minutes)

### Speaking test

A face-to-face interaction with an examiner who rates the candidate's overall communicative proficiency (15 minutes)

A detailed test overview and complete sample test are available at: [www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab)

International students have a choice of proficiency tests to satisfy an English language entry requirement. The MELAB offers an alternative to other high-stakes tests.

## Scoring and reporting

The MELAB is administered only by authorized CaMLA examiners at CaMLA-approved test centers.

All score reports provide a complete profile of test-taker proficiency. They include a score for each section of the MELAB as well as an overall score. The MELAB overall score is the average of the scores on the 3 compulsory parts (composition, listening, and GCVR). The speaking test is reported separately.

- Listening and GCVR are scored electronically at CaMLA.
- Writing and speaking are evaluated by CaMLA-trained and certified raters.

### A MELAB score . . .

- assesses where test takers place on a proficiency scale ranging from intermediate through advanced. Institutions determine which MELAB score is most in line with their specific requirements. They may also decide whether or not to require the speaking test.
- is completed within 6 weeks from the date CaMLA receives the tests, or within 1 week when optional Rush Service is ordered.
- is valid for two years.

For detailed information about how to interpret MELAB scores, see the MELAB Information Bulletin on our website: [www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab)

**"Having directed a MELAB center for over ten years, I can say with confidence that this assessment offers optimum security."**

Dr. Georgia Wilder  
University of Toronto

## Why should you recognize the MELAB?

### The MELAB is:

#### Relevant

- Developed drawing on years of experience in assessing college-bound students
- Specifically designed for admissions to North American institutions
- Widely recognized as a valid assessment of academic English language proficiency
- An affordable, convenient admissions credential for your prospective students
- Available at 300 test centers in 40 countries around the world

#### Secure

- Administered only at CaMLA-authorized test centers
- Strict test-day identification procedures, including candidate photo cross-checks
- Confidential score reporting from CaMLA directly to the institution

#### Reliable

- Scored by trained and approved CaMLA raters
- Accurately tests students' proficiency through paper-and-pencil as well as face-to-face interaction
- Part scores and overall score reflect test takers' true language abilities and readiness for undergraduate or graduate studies

**"MELAB has a long track record of being an affordable, valid, and reliable test of academic English, with a short interval between registration and testing, and a quick turnaround time for score reporting."**

Doug McBean  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Enrollment Services  
University of Toronto

## Become a MELAB recognizing organization

Join the growing number of institutions of higher learning that accept the MELAB as proof of English proficiency. By doing so, you will be included in CaMLA's online roster of recognizing organizations and your information will be accessible worldwide, boosting your exposure to prospective students.

Help us initiate contact with you by filling out the form at [www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab/rof](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab/rof)



## Tell us how the MELAB works for you

If you are currently using, or have recently used, the MELAB for admissions into your academic programs, fill out our recognizing organizations form and help us stay current with the language assessment needs of your institution. Your response means a lot to CaMLA and the ongoing development of the MELAB.

[www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab/rof](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab/rof)



For more information about CaMLA and MELAB, visit [www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab)

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