

TO: Faculty and Staff Involved with the Hiring of International Teaching Assistants
FROM: Prof. April Ginther, Director, Oral English Proficiency Program, YONG
DATE: April 26, 2010
RE: Revision of IELTS Minimum Score Accepted for International Teaching Assistant Certification

Purdue University requires that any graduate student whose first language is not English demonstrate adequate oral English proficiency before being assigned duties involving the direct instruction of undergraduate students. Graduate students at Purdue may demonstrate oral proficiency by taking the TOEFL iBT (speaking portion), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Purdue's Oral English Proficiency Test (OEPT).

The minimum acceptable scores for international teaching assistant certification via the TOEFL iBT (speaking section) and the IELTS were established in November 2005. During a periodic review of the accepted scores, it was determined that the current score for certification with the IELTS, 7.0 on the speaking section, is not comparable to the minimum cut-off scores for the TOEFL iBT or the OEPT. **Therefore, effective with the Fall 2011 semester, the minimum acceptable score for international teaching assistant certification with the IELTS will be 8.0 on the speaking section.**

To summarize, students with the following minimum scores may be considered for teaching assistantships that involve the instruction of undergraduate students. Some examples of instructional teaching assistantships requiring certification are lecturers, recitation leaders, and lab instructors.

TOEFL iBT (speaking portion)	27
IELTS (speaking portion)	8
Purdue's OEPT	50

Students who are not admitted with speaking scores of at least 27 on the TOEFL iBT, or 8 on the IELTS, should be scheduled to take the Oral English Proficiency Test (OEPT) at Purdue prior to being offered an instructional teaching assistantship. Students who do not pass the OEPT screening will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the OEPP's course, ENGL 620, *Classroom Communication in ESL for International Teaching Assistants*.

Students who are not yet certified may be considered for teaching assistantships that do not involve undergraduate instruction. Some examples of positions that do not require certification include paper graders, lab assistants, researchers, and library assistants.

More information on the OEPT and Purdue's policy on the hiring of international teaching assistants can be found on our website, <http://www.purdue.edu/oepp>.

Please note, scores for certification are not the same as scores for Graduate School admission. For more information on Purdue Graduate School admission requirements, go to: <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/admissions>.

Please be sure to share this information with other faculty and staff in your area who are responsible for placing international graduate students into teaching assistantship positions.