

Required Testing for International Students in TA training

1. Test of Spoken English

The Spoken English Program (SEP) was established in 1986 to implement a Council of Deans mandate requiring the screening and training of international teaching assistants (ITAs) whose first language is not English. A subsequent state law, in effect as of September 1986, mandates such screening for prospective international teaching assistants at all state of Ohio institutions.

The goal of the Spoken English Program is to ensure that international teaching assistants demonstrate the communication skills necessary to teach effectively in the U.S. university setting. Specifically, the program screens all prospective international teaching assistants, provides coursework for those who require it, and administers teaching performance tests at the end of coursework to determine Certification to teach.

For more information: <http://esl.osu.edu/SEP/>

Note: You cannot teach at Ohio State without successful completion of this test!

2. ESL Composition Program

The goal of the English as a Second Language Composition sequence is to bring students' expository writing skills to a level at which the students can successfully compete in regular University courses with American and other English-speaking students. Undergraduates who complete the ESL sequence enroll in English 110. Graduate students often write their M.A. or Ph.D. exams and theses soon after completing the ESL sequence.

The Office of Admissions notifies those international students who are required to take a placement test. There is a time scheduled during the TA training course to take this exam. Students write a one-hour placement composition that is evaluated by trained ESL staff members. Students are placed in one of three levels corresponding to our courses: EDU T&L 106 (for undergraduates), 106G (for graduate students), or EDU T&L 107 (for undergraduates), 107G (for graduate students), or EDU T&L 108.01 (for undergraduates), 108.02 (for graduate students). Some students are Qualified on the basis of the placement composition; these students are not required to take any ESL courses. There are also exemptions listed in the workshop syllabus.

For more information: <http://esl.osu.edu/ESLC/>