



Cleveland State University

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College of Education and Human Services

*Department of Teacher Education
English as a Second Language Program*

TO: Graduate Program Directors

FROM : Michele S. Bowman, Ph.D.
ESL Program Director

DATE: August 6, 2013

SUBJECT: SPEAK test and ESL Program

In preparation for the Fall 2013 semester, I would like to provide you with some information for International Teaching Assistants (ITA's) and graduate students in general. Any international graduate student whose first language is not English and is a candidate for a teaching assistant position must provide a speaking score from the internet-based TOEFL (iBT), The Test of Spoken English (TSE) has been phased out in all but a few countries that do not have complete access to internet-based TOEFL (iBT).

The speaking score on the TOEFL is a fairly new component. While the minimum for admission is 17 for most departments, **ETS identifies a score of 23 as the minimum score required for ITA's**, equivalent to a score of 45 on the TSE/SPEAK. With this score, an ITA would also need to register for ESL 504 or take the SPEAK test. In addition, **a speaking score of 26 is identified as the equivalent of 50 (on the TSE/SPEAK) for which no further ESL coursework is needed.**

If a student does not have an appropriate iBT score, s/he can take the SPEAK test here at CSU (see instructions included with this memo). If the student does not achieve a score of 50 on the SPEAK test, the ESL program provides instruction in either ESL 503 or 504. However, any international graduate student may enroll in these courses, as well as ESL 502, ESL Graduate Writing. It is helpful to emphasize that these ESL courses do NOT stop the student from beginning his/her academic program

SPEAK test

- Proof of spoken proficiency of English required by the Pringle Law.
- SPEAK test required of ITA's who have not provided an appropriate speaking score on the iBT or the Test of Spoken English score
- Detailed procedure information on attached sheet.
- It can take up to two weeks to receive scores since the SPEAK test must be evaluated by two raters.

(please turn over)

ESL 503 & 504

- Designed for ITA's to improve communicative competence and placement is done through SPEAK
- Available to all international students to improve their speaking skills
- 503 will begin with some presentation skills; 504 addresses teaching strategies.
- Only students enrolled in 504 may concurrently hold an ITA position.
- ESL 503 also used for graduate students who are given "test upon arrival" and show low speaking skills on test.
- 2 credit hours

ESL 502

- Graduate ESL Writing course
- Uses students' writing assignments from courses or thesis proposals as assignments
- Required text provides practice in writing skills and grammar exercises.
- 2 credit hours; Blended course of 4 face-to-face meetings and online.

I am available to discuss the SPEAK testing process or the graduate courses. Please feel free to contact me at x9669 or at m.s.bowman@csuohio.edu if you are interested in learning more about the English as a Second Language Program, our graduate and undergraduate courses, or our Intensive English Language Program (pre-admission language program). You may also view information at <http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/departments/TE/ielp/index.html>