

Language Proficiency Requirements for Appointment of**Students to Teaching Assistant and Associate In_ Titles****September 15, 2011; rev June 5, 2015; rev February 1, 2016****Endorsed by the Graduate Council – September 15, 2011; June 5, 2015***Exhibit A – Language Proficiency Score Comparison Table***Purpose**

An instructor's ability to communicate effectively in the English language is critically important to success of learners in meeting learning outcomes. Accordingly, the Office of Graduate Studies requires all graduate students, except those who have earned a prior undergraduate degree from an institution at which English was the sole language of instruction, to demonstrate oral English proficiency before they are appointed to Teaching Assistant (TA) or Associate In_ (AI) titles.

Policy

Oral proficiency in English is demonstrated by meeting one or more of the following requirements:

- Achieving a minimum score of 26 on the Speaking Subset of the TOEFL iBT¹
- Achieving a minimum score of 8 on the Speaking Subset of the IELTS²
- Achieving a minimum score of 50 on the SPEAK³
- Achieving a "Pass" on the TOEP⁴

Provisional Appointment Status

As noted in *Exhibit A* below, students with TOEFL speaking scores of 22 to 25, SPEAK scores of 40 or 45, or IELTS speaking scores of 6.5 to 7.5 are eligible to take the TOEP. The TOEP is designed to test the oral English ability of English language learners specifically as it relates to their ability to conduct discussion sections, labs, and office hours and to interact in English with undergraduate students in the course of normal TA duties. Students taking the TOEP earn one of three ratings: Pass, Conditional Pass or Not-Pass.

Students who receive a "Conditional Pass" on the TOEP may be provisionally appointed as a TA or AI for two quarters provided they:

- enroll in English language courses during those quarters; and/or
- participate in a combination of English language learner workshops and seminars approved by the International and Academic English (IAE) unit in Undergraduate Education.

To continue to be eligible for appointment to a TA or AI title after the two quarters, students will need to demonstrate proficiency as noted above. There are no extensions to provisional appointment status.

¹ Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Testing

² International English Language Testing System

³ Spoken Proficiency English Assessment Kit

⁴ Test of English Proficiency

UC DAVIS GRADUATE STUDIES POLICY
Language Proficiency Requirements for Appointment of
Students to Teaching Assistant and Associate In_ Titles

GS2011 – 01 (rev02)

Ineligible for Appointment

Students whose scores on the SPEAK, TOEFL speaking or IELTS speaking that make them ineligible to serve as TAs or AIs, may repeat the SPEAK test once per quarter with the goal of earning an eligible score. Students who receive a “Not-Pass” on the TOEP may similarly repeat the test once per quarter.

Exemptions

Students appointed to TA or AI for advanced language courses where the entire course is conducted in a language of interest other than English, are exempt from the English language proficiency requirement in this policy.

Resources

IAE and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) offer regular SPEAK and TOEP tests and can direct students to courses and workshops that may assist them in developing oral proficiency in English: <http://iae.ucdavis.edu> and <http://cetl.ucdavis.edu/>.

Exhibit A – Language Proficiency Score Comparison Table

Eligibility for TA or AI	SPEAK test	TOEFL iBT speaking	IELTS speaking
Eligible	60	30	9
	55	28	8.5
	50	26	8
Must “Pass” TOEP or “Conditionally Pass” for provisional appt.	45	23-25	7-7.5
	40	22	6.5
Not Eligible	35	20	6.5
	30	18	6
	25	16	5.5
	20	14	5