**English Language Testing and Training Policy for International GTAs**

All international GTAs (IGTAs) whose native language is not English are required to take the Internet Based TOEFL (iBT) test before serving as graduate teaching assistants. Test scores for incoming students can be reviewed using the Banner student information system or confirmed by contacting the Graduate School staff.

Departments are advised to include in their offers of graduate teaching assistantships the specification that students receiving iBT speaking sub scores of less than 26 will be required to undertake further English language training and that the cost of such training will be met by the academic department.

IGTAs with iBT speaking sub scores of 26 or above should have no significant language difficulties. It is anticipated that IGTAs with scores in this category should be fully competent to complete assignments requiring significant student-teacher interaction.

For IGTAs scoring below 26, departments should use the [Guidelines for the Assignment of International GTAs](http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/CourseDetail.aspx?subjectcode=IEPA&coursenumber=098NC) to make assignments commensurate with the level of English language proficiency and should monitor and ensure effectiveness and competence in the IGTA’s fulfillment of assignment.

IGTAs scoring below 26 will be required to undertake further English language training, the level of which will be determined by the original score received. Departments are expected to pay for the course designed specifically for IGTAs (IEPA 098NC, Communication for IGTAs). This three-credit course will be offered only fall term and is tentatively scheduled late on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please check the OSU course catalog for confirmation of the time and date:

http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/CourseDetail.aspx?subjectcode=IEPA&coursenumber=098NC.

The specific course work required will depend upon INTO-OSU’s course recommendation and course availability during the term in which further training is needed. IGTAs enrolling in INTO-OSU courses other than the IGTA course should notify their INTO-OSU instructors that they are potential GTAs and will need to be evaluated as such. They should also request that the instructor fill out the GTA evaluation form at the end of the term.

IGTAs will be evaluated by the INTO-OSU staff at the end of the term in which further language training has been undertaken. INTO-OSU will make a recommendation as to whether English language proficiency is sufficient, limited, or that further training is necessary. INTO-OSU will take into consideration the training policy and [Guidelines for the Assignment of International GTAs](http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/CourseDetail.aspx?subjectcode=IEPA&coursenumber=098NC) when making a recommendation.

Departments employing IGTAs shall maintain on file records of assignments and any remedial action taken should there be questions or complaints about IGTA performance.
# Guidelines for the Assignment of International GTAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>iBT Speaking Sub Score</th>
<th>Assignment Considerations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 and above</td>
<td>No significant language difficulty is anticipated. A score of 26 has characteristics of near-native speaking ability. Language proficiency usually includes demonstrated audience awareness, cohesive and well developed responses, limited deficiencies in fluency, vocabulary, grammar or pronunciation.</td>
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<td>25 - 23</td>
<td>Assignment should be made recognizing that the IGTA has language limitations. The graduate teaching assistant must attend the IGTA course. INTO-OSU may recommend alternate courses when the IGTA course is not offered. Departments should provide close ongoing monitoring of progress in the IGTA assignment and in language skills development. Characteristics in this range may include strong but understandable accent, labored and deliberate pronunciation, possible difficulty with free-response items, halting speech patterns or vocabulary limitations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 - 18</td>
<td>Teaching assistant is expected to undertake further English language training, the level of which will be determined by INTO-OSU recommendation and course availability during the term in which further training is required. In the absence of alternate courses, INTO-OSU may recommend the IGTA course be taken. Only assignments involving minimal student-teacher interaction should be made. Departments should provide close ongoing monitoring of progress in language skills development.</td>
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*English language training is required for scores below 26.*