Purpose of OEPT

According to the Ohio Revised Code 3345.281, ALL teaching assistants whose native language is not English must have an assessment made of their oral proficiency in the use of English. However, some departments may require students who hold a University of Cincinnati scholarship to take the Oral English Proficiency Test (OEPT).

Who needs to take the OEPT?

1. Students who have TOELF iBT below 26 or IELTS speaking scores below 7.5 are required to take the OEPT.

2. OEPT is not required for students who can submit sufficient to the OEPT office of TOELF iBT or IELTs speaking scores as indicated below:
   - TOELF iBT 26 or higher
   - IELTS speaking 7.5 or higher

3. Students who have a certification of oral English proficiency signed by the Head of the Department are not required to take the OEPT. (IELTs and TOEFL iBT scores must be provided to the graduate program secretary)

About the OEPT test

The OEPT is a 20-minute video recorded interview with trained evaluators. There are four sections to the test:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Warm-Up</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Conversational Questions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Course Policies and Procedures</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Sample Lesson</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OEPT Registration packets can be downloaded from the OEPT website at: [http://www.cech.uc.edu/centers/cesl/oept.html](http://www.cech.uc.edu/centers/cesl/oept.html)
How often is the test offered?

The test will be given 2 times a year in August and January. Please visit the OEPT website for exact dates: http://cech.uc.edu/centers/cesl/oept.html or contact OEPT office for further information.

How often can the OEPT test be taken?

A student who did not pass the OEPT test may only take the test no more than 2 times in one academic year. If you are not prepared for the test, we cannot reschedule you. If you do not show up for the test, you will automatically fail the OEPT and must retake it at the next session date.

How is the test scored?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OEPT Score Results</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00-1.99</td>
<td>Did not pass; Must take 2 or 3 ESL courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00-2.49</td>
<td>Did not pass; Must take at least 2 ESL courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50-2.99</td>
<td>Conditional Pass; Must take at least 1 ESL course, while teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00-3.49</td>
<td>Passed; May need an ESL course, while teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50-4.00</td>
<td>Passed; Can teach without restrictions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scores will be given based on a scale from 1 (low) to 4 (high). The Center for ESL suggests a 3.5 as the minimum score for teaching without restrictions. However, an overall score of 3.00 is the minimum passing score for the test. If you score less than 3.00 you will be required to take ESL courses before retaking the test.

Where can I get my score results?

Request test scores from your Graduate Program Secretary. Test scores will be sent to your department at least 3 working days from the end of the testing period.

Who conducts the OEPT test?

Three trained evaluators will conduct the OEPT test. Evaluators are ESL professionals, graduate students, and language-related instructors.

If a student feels they have been wrongly evaluated please contact the students’ academic advisor, department head, or graduate program director within 14 days after your test date. An appropriate plan of action can be worked out with the OEPT coordinator and Director of ESL.
Preparing for the Test

This packet is for students to use to prepare for the OEPT test. There will be 4 sections of the OEPT test: warm-up, conversational questions, course policies and procedures, and sample lessons. The packet also includes a sample Course Policies and Procedures, but students are expected to prepare their own Sample Lesson.

Section 0: Warm-Up Time: 2 minutes

The purpose of this section is to provide a couple of minutes for everyone to know each other. The evaluators will ask you “small talk” questions, which you would normally ask of someone you’ve just met.

Example questions:

- Where are you from?
- How long have you been in Cincinnati?
- What is your major?

Section 1: Conversational Questions Time: 4 minutes

The purpose of this section is to see how well you can speak informally, but may include academic conversations. You will usually be asked no more than 3 questions. All of these questions will relate to your area of study or study abroad experience.

Example questions:

- Why did you decide to go into your chosen field of study?
- What advice would you give to students coming to America?
Section 2: Course Policies and Procedures  Time: 7 minutes

The purpose of this section is to clearly communicate policies and procedures, and answer related questions.

During the oral test, the tester will be expected to:

- Act as an instructor on the first day of classes
- Present Course Policies and Procedures in an interesting way
- Does not memorize materials
- Respond to evaluators questions related to the material presented

Section 3: Sample Lesson  Time: 7 minutes

The purpose of this section is to present a lesson on a basic concept related to a students’ academic field. The student will demonstrate a strong understanding of the language and how to organize an academic presentation.

- Evaluators will ask questions related to the sample lesson
- The tester is encouraged to find concepts or terms that can be easily understood in beginning undergraduate courses

Questions about the OEPT test please contact the OEPT office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OEPT Office</th>
<th>📞: (513) 556-3519</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>610A Teachers College</td>
<td>✉️: <a href="mailto:oept1@uc.edu">oept1@uc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Policies and Procedures
Sample for OEPT test

Required Text

Course Objectives
1. To learn skills necessary to be an effective and successful undergraduate student
2. To learn the requirements for different undergraduate degrees
3. To learn to be an active member of a learning community

Academic Integrity
“The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct” (UC Faculty Senate 2001, May 10)

Attendance and Participation
1. Attendance and active participation is an important part of this class
2. Students with more than two unexcused absences will be asked to drop the class
3. Students who are more than 10 minutes late to class will be considered absent

Grade Distribution
10% attendance and participation
20% homework assignments
20% quizzes
20% midterm
30% final exam
100% total