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 for international teaching assistants (OEPT-ITA).

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-ITA.

2. OEPT-ITA 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 an OEPT waiver form signed by the Graduate Studies Director of the Department are not required to take the OEPT-ITA.

About the OEPT-ITA test

The OEPT-ITA is a 15-minute online self-recorded speaking test in response to various prompts. There are three sections to the test:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Conversational Questions (2-3 minutes)</td>
<td>Questions will be asked about describing or giving your opinions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Course Policies and Procedures (4-5 minutes)</td>
<td>Acting as an instructor, this section requires a presentation of Course Policies and Procedures or another syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mini-Lesson Presentation (5-6 minutes)</td>
<td>Acting as an instructor, teach a short lesson on a basic concept from students’ field for undergraduate students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How often is the test offered?

The test is available anytime throughout the year. However, the test needs to be taken prior to the semester in which the teaching assistantship is offered.

How often can the OEPT test be taken?

A student can take the OEPT-ITA no more than 2 times per semester.

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.

When and Where can I get my score results?

Test scores will be sent to you via the email you use to register for the test and your department within 3 working days after the submission of your test.

Who evaluates the OEPT test?

Two trained evaluators will conduct the evaluation of the 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 the CESL.
Preparing for the Test

This packet is for students to use to prepare for the OEPT test. There will be 3 sections of the OEPT test: conversational questions, course policies and procedures, and mini-lesson presentation. The packet also includes a sample Course Policies and Procedures, but students are expected to prepare their own Mini-Lesson Presentation.

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**Section 1: Conversational Questions**  
**Time: 2-3 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?

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**Section 2: Course Policies and Procedures**  
**Time: 4-5 minutes**

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

During the oral test, the candidate 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

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**Section 3: Mini-Lesson Presentation**  
**Time: 5-6 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:oeptl@uc.edu">oeptl@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