

Northwestern

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

English Language Programs Summary for Departments

English Language Programs (ELP) provides English language training, orientation, and testing for international grad students and scholars.

Programs

Non-credit courses offered throughout the academic year

- LING 380, 381, 480. [Group instruction classes](#) on various topics
- LING 482. [Individual instruction](#) (tutoring)
- LING 483. [Supported online speech and language training](#)

Orientation programs

- [ELP Foundations](#) (summer quarter; departments solicited for nominations in winter/spring)
- [English Development through Guided Exploration](#) (EDGE) (fall quarter)
- [Integrated Academic Skills](#) (fall and winter quarters; combination of LING 380, 482, 483)

English Proficiency Testing

[The Graduate School's English proficiency requirement](#) establishes a minimum level of spoken English proficiency that students must achieve to become eligible for funding as a graduate or teaching assistant. To fulfill the requirement, students must demonstrate proficiency on one recognized assessment.

Recognized assessments (score thresholds have been selected to correlate across exam formats):

Assessments administered at Northwestern (departments notified before each test)

- [Versant English Test](#) (65 or higher out of 80 points *or* 63/64 on two tests)
 - All international PhD and MFA students who have not yet satisfied TGS's English proficiency requirement will be required to take test, offered in Sept and Feb.
- [SPEAK Test](#) (50 or higher out of 60 points)
 - Departments must nominate students for test, offered in November and May. ELP will contact departments for nominations before each test.
- [Teaching Demonstration Assessment](#) at conclusion of LING 480 (passing or provisional pass)
 - Only students who successfully complete LING 480 are eligible. Departments must nominate students for LING 480 (offered summer quarter); ELP will contact departments for nominations.

Assessments taken prior to admission (scores valid for 2 years from test date)

- TOEFL (Speaking Section Score of 26 or higher)
- IELTS (Speaking Section Score of 8 or higher)