English Language Programs Summary for Departments

*English Language Programs (ELP) provides English language training, orientation, and testing for international graduate 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](#) (new for 2019!) (summer quarter; departments will be solicited for nominations in winter/spring)
- [English Development through Guided Exploration](#) (EDGE) (fall quarter)
- [Integrated Academic Skills](#) (EDGE) (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)