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)