

Preparing for the Oral English Proficiency Test: A Guide for Students

Why do you need to take the OEPT?

University policy requires that any international graduate student whose first language is not English be certified for proficiency in oral English before serving as a TA with responsibility for directly instructing students.

There are multiple methods to use an exam to be certified as proficient in oral English for this type of role:

- *TOEFL iBT Speaking ≥ 27
- *IELTS Speaking ≥ 8.0
- OEPT ≥ 50

*Scores must be less than two years old.

How do you prepare for the OEPT?

Your department will schedule an appointment for you to take the OEPT. You will receive an email from OEPT Registration with the test location, date, and time. Save this e-mail, as you may need it to start the test.

Review the OEPT video orientation [here](#). Based on feedback from test-takers, **we highly recommend taking the [OEPT practice test](#) at least once!** There are 2 versions, so you can try multiple times.

Do your best to come as rested, nourished, and relaxed as possible!

Tips for Test Day!

- Arrive approximately 5 minutes in advance of the test session.
- If you arrive after the starting time, you may be required to re-schedule taking the test for a different day and/or time.
- Wait in the hallway until you are asked to enter the test room.
- Have your Purdue ID or other official photo ID ready (passport or U.S. driver's license). We do not accept electronic IDs, IDs without photos, or IDs that are not in English.
- If you do not have a photo ID, you will not be allowed to take the test.
- Bring a bottle of water with a screw-on cap. No other food or drink is permitted.
- Silence your cell phone, but keep it with you so that you can log into the test with your Purdue username, password, and two-factor authentication.
- Put all other belongings in your bag, backpack, purse, etc. You must leave all bags in the front of the testing lab.
- You will be provided with paper, pencils and a pen to take notes.
- You may want to bring a sweater or jacket in case the lab is cold.

What do OEPT scores mean?

- **55 and 50:** You are certified.
- **45:** You may work as a TA directly instructing students concurrently while improving your skills and demonstrating that you meet Purdue's criteria for certification in [English 620 "Classroom Communication in ESL for International Teaching Assistants."](#) Your department will help you enroll.
- **40:** You may improve your skills and demonstrate that you meet Purdue's criteria for certification in [English 620 "Classroom Communication in ESL for International Teaching Assistants."](#) Your department will help you enroll.
- **35:** You may take the OEPT again after 1 year of improving your skills, for example in [the Purdue Language and Culture Exchange](#).