



### English Language Standards for Approval to Teach

The Texas Education code (Chapter 51.917) requires that the English ability all non-native speakers must be evaluated before being approved to teach. In accordance with OP 64.03, all Texas Tech University International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) providing classroom instruction shall be assessed in the ITA Program. All ITAs are evaluated for English classroom communication proficiency through the ITA Performance Test and the SPEAK test. **Candidates must pass both assessments to be approved to teach.**

Required Assessment	Passing Score
ITA Performance Test	38
SPEAK Test	45

The Performance Test is a teaching simulation task in which ITA candidates provide a short lecture on a term or concept. The ITA candidate's performance is rated on 10 criteria on a scale of 1 to 4 by two or more trained raters. The overall scores from each of the raters are averaged to produce the final score.

The SPEAK Test is an oral test of spoken English fluency developed by Educational Testing Service. The ITA candidate's responses to 12 speaking tasks are rated by two professional raters with scores ranging from 20 to 60 for each item. The scores for the 12 items are averaged to produce one overall score from each rater. The overall scores from the raters are then averaged and rounded to the nearest five to produce the final score.

For more information regarding these assessments please contact:

Linley Melhem

[Linley.Melhem@ttu.edu](mailto:Linley.Melhem@ttu.edu)

Director, International Teaching Assistant Workshop