

English Oral Proficiency Interview

All prospective international Teaching Assistants must take an online Oral Proficiency Interview by computer (OPIc) prior to teaching assignments can be made.

PROFLUENT+

The [international Profluent+](#), a remotely (online) proctored Oral Proficiency Interview offered by Language Testing International (LTI) can be scheduled online and taken at any time on your own. The cost is \$95, to be paid by the student prior to enrolling in courses at UW. Students can ask their departments if funds are available to offset the cost of the OPIc.

RESULTS

The University of Wyoming has a regulation regarding Oral English proficiency skills for graduate teaching positions. Only students who are rated Advanced Low or higher qualify to teach as graduate assistants. Once students receive evaluations, they should refer to the following chart:

- Intermediate Mid: student is qualified to do research
- Intermediate High: student is qualified to grade papers
- Advanced Low: student is qualified to teach a Lab or to lead a seminar (under supervision)
- Advanced Mid and higher: student is qualified to teach a course (under supervision)

FAQs:

I already took the TOEFL, do I also have to take this test?

The TOEFL is not a valid substitution for this requirement. However, there are **exceptions**:

1. If you already have an advanced degree from an English-language university and have already served as a teaching assistant, you do not need to take this test. Your English university degree must be apparent on your transcripts.
2. If you will not be serving as a teaching assistant at UW, the OPIc test is optional.

If you will teach at UW and you do not qualify for an exception, your department cannot waive the OPI exam. Please confirm your status by consulting with your department and faculty mentor.

How is the Oral Proficiency Interview conducted?

The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview, or OPI, is a live, 20-30 minute telephone conversation between a certified ACTFL tester and the candidate. It is a valid and reliable test that measures how well a person speaks a language. The procedure is standardized in order to assess global speaking ability, measuring language production holistically by determining patterns of strengths and weaknesses. For more information visit <http://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-opi>

What do the rating criteria mean?

For information regarding ACTFL oral proficiency rating criteria, please visit <http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012/english/speaking>

What if I do not pass the test?

If you are supported by a graduate assistantship that requires teaching, you should take the OPI exam **prior to accepting** the assistantship. Please consult with your home department if you are unable to pass the exam. International graduate assistants hired to teach who do not receive a sufficient score to fulfill the UW teaching role may retake the exam but should consult with their home department before doing so.