



MEMO

DATE: November 24, 2020 [updated 9/7/21]
TO: Department Heads, Graduate Coordinators, and Deans
FROM: Jim Ahern, AVP for Graduate Education
RE: REMINDER - OPIc Exam Requirement for All Graduate Teaching Assistants

Please remind your faculty as well as new and continuing international graduate students of the following:

Please make sure that all of your international (non-native English speaking) graduate assistants you want to hire or rehire as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) have passed the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPIc or former ProFluent+). An OPIc score of Advanced Low or higher is considered passing. This applies to all GTAs no matter the source of funding for the position.

Incoming students. If an incoming international graduate student will ever be employed as a GTA while at UW, programs must communicate to the student that any employment as a graduate teaching assistant is contingent on the student submitting a passing OPIc score by August 1 (for fall, and January 1 for spring). Furthermore, I *highly recommend* that programs that regularly employ international graduate students as GTAs make admission contingent on a passing OPIc score. The sooner these students submit OPIc scores the less likely last-minute funding changes will need to be made.

Continuing students. All current international graduate assistants who have not yet taken or did not pass the Oral Proficiency Interview will have to show proof of an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPIc) with a passing score of Advanced Low or higher in order to be rehired. In order to avoid any hiring delays, continuing students should complete the OPIc with a passing score by no later than one month before their start of employment as a GTA.

Information regarding UW's OPIc requirement for Graduate Teaching Assistants and how to register to take the OPIc can be found at:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/study-iep-esl/grad-ta-support/opi-registration.html>.