GSAS Oral English Language Requirement

GSAS requires that all incoming PhD students who are non-native English speakers and who have received their undergraduate degrees from non-English speaking institutions meet a minimum level of oral English language proficiency. This proficiency standard must be met before students are permitted to serve as Teaching Fellows.

The policy has three tiers. International graduate students fitting the above conditions who receive a:

1. **TOEFL iBT speaking score of 27 and above**: have met the GSAS oral English language requirement.

2. **TOEFL iBT speaking score between 23 and 26**: are required to schedule an oral proficiency interview in their first term of study with language specialists at the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning. The interview will determine the student’s oral proficiency level. If students are not at the required level, they will be required to take either an English course at the Institute for English language (IEL) or the Classroom Communication Skills course at the Bok Center. After taking a course, students will be eligible for re-screening.

3. **TOEFL iBT speaking score of 22 and below** are required to 1) schedule an oral proficiency interview in their first term of study with language specialists at the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and learning, and 2) take either an English course at the Institute for English language (IEL) or the Classroom Communication Skills course at the Bok Center. After taking a course, they will be eligible for re-screening.

**Re-Screening Policy**: After students have taken either an English course at the Institute for English language (IEL) or the Classroom Communication Skills course at the Bok Center, they will be eligible to be re-screened to determine whether they have met the oral English language requirement. Screenings are offered at the end of each semester in December and May, as well as in August.

**Timeline for Meeting the Requirement**: Depending on each individual student’s initial level, it may take more than one semester to meet the requirement. Thus, students are strongly urged, after consultation with their departmental advisor, to take a course either the first or second term of their G1 year to accommodate the time it may take to bring their language skills up to the required level. Students have two years to complete the requirement. Graduate students who have not met the oral English language requirement are not permitted to serve as Teaching Fellows.

P:public/stuaffs/English proficiency/2013/GSAS Oral English Language Requirement (policy)