

9/28/04

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATION

Certified to Teach

International students must be **CERTIFIED** to teach prior to holding a Graduate Assistantship Teaching position at Texas A&M University.

Certification is obtained by passing the English Language Proficiency Examination given at the beginning and end of each semester or via coursework. The examination consists of six sections: Grammar, Composition, Reading, Listening, Vocabulary, and Oral Skills. Each of the six sections must be passed with a minimum score of 80 in each area or receiving an "A" or "B" in the coursework.

If a student does not pass all six sections of the examination the first semester, the student is allowed to postpone any English Language Institute (ELI) coursework for the first semester only (Students postponing ELI coursework cannot teach). At the end of the semester, the examination is given again and if the student fails to pass all remaining areas via testing, the student must enroll for a minimum of one ELI course and continue to test or take ELI classes until the certification requirement has been satisfied.

Certification by Alternate Means

If an international student received a 4-year undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University or another recognized accredited U. S. institution, the student may be Certified by Alternate Means. The home department of the student must request, in writing to the Office of Graduate Studies, Certification by Alternate Means. If the request is approved, a "Waiver" is entered for the student.

Verified

International students that hold VERIFIED status may NOT hold teaching assistantships.

Verified means a student has an official minimum TOFLC score of 213 or a GRE Verbal score of 400. These students do not have to take the English Proficiency Examination (unless their home department requires it) nor do they have to take English Language Institute coursework (unless their home department requires it).

If an international student wishes to hold a teaching assistantship at some point in their graduate career, the student should work toward becoming Certified as early in their career as possible.