English Language Proficiency
Graduate Advisor Workshop 2013
Areas of Responsibility

- Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
  Works with Departments on policy interpretations, approvals, and exceptions.

- Data and Research Services
  Testing – English Language Proficiency Examination

- English Language Institute
  Instruction in English
English Proficiency Policy

- **English Language Proficiency Verification**
  Required of all international students for whom English is not the native language (defined by Admissions – all or none by country).

- **English Language Proficiency Certification**
  Required of international students who are going to serve as Graduate Assistant – Teaching or have not achieved ELP Verification.
English Language Proficiency Verification

- TOEFL Test Score
  - Computer-based – 213
  - Internet – 80
  - Paper – 550
- IELTS Score – 6.0
- GRE Verbal Score – 146 New Scale (was 400)
- GMAT Verbal Score – 22
English Language Proficiency Certification

Four Areas of Competence:

- Composition
- Listening
- Oral Skills
- Reading

Can meet requirement with a mixture of

- Score of at least 80 on English Language Proficiency Examination
- A or B in an English Language Institute course at 300 level or higher.
Alternative Certification through OGAPS

- Undergraduate degree following four years of study at a US institution.
- Completed an English Proficiency Program at another institution.
- Other experiences that demonstrate English Proficiency.
English Proficiency on Compass
SHANCRS – Non-Course Requirement

Z1EL – Overall ELPE Status
Z2G – Grammar (UGrad only)
Z3C – Composition
Z4R – Reading
Z5L – Listening
Z6V – Vocabulary (UGrad only)
Z7O – Oral Skills
### Academic Non-Courses

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### Degrees Applied

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ZA – Certified by Alternate Means
ZC – Certified
ZE – Native English Speaker
ZN – Not Verified
ZP – Postponed
ZV – Verified
ZW – Waived with 79
ZX – Excluded
Offered on a monthly basis.

Students register at dars.tamu.edu

Testing in August and January for new students is by a priority system.

Students must wait three months between administrations (except with written approval from OGAPS).

Students without ELP Verification or enrolled in an ELI course must test between semesters.
First priority is to students who have not met ELP Verification.

Next are departments using new, first-semester international graduate students as GATs. The department will send DARS a list of students identified as potential GATs.

The rest of the slots will be on a first-come, space-available basis.
English Language Proficiency Examination

Composition
- 30 minute essay on a general topic.
- Scored by 2 or 3 readers using a structured rubric.

Listening
- 90 question test delivered by recorded exam developed at the University of Michigan.

Oral Skills
- Short oral reading passage.
- Brief lecture presentation based on content provided by the student’s department.
- Question and answer on a general topic chosen by the student.

Reading
- 20 Question test using short passages, developed at University of Michigan.
ELP Composition Sub–scores

Beginning in August of 2013 began reporting Composition Subscores:

- **Content**  
  Score Range: 13–30  
  Target: 25

- **Organization**  
  Score Range: 7–20  
  Target: 16

- **Vocabulary**  
  Score Range: 7–20  
  Target: 16

- **Language Usage**  
  Score Range: 5–25  
  Target: 20

- **Mechanics**  
  Score Range: 2–5  
  Target: 3

The Targets are the average scores needed for passing. Passing is based on a total score of 80, not on the subscores.
Retesting within 3 months requires OGAPS permission.

Request should be made by the Departmental Graduate Advisor for students needed as GATs.

Students will be scheduled once OGAPS permission is granted.
Placement in ELI courses

- Required for students not meeting ELP Verification requirements or departmental standards.
- Students may postpone all requirements the first semester at Texas A&M with approval of the student’s department.
- Placements are made following the test by arrangement with OGAPS and/or the English Language Institute.