English Proficiency Requirements for International Graduate Students

International students or naturalized citizens of the U.S. whose native language is not English are also required to submit evidence of proficiency in both written and spoken English. Applicants for whom English is a second language are required to demonstrate an acceptable level of spoken and written English usually by submitting a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score.  

- A TOEFL score of 79 (internet-based test; IBT) or 550 (paper-based test; PBT) is required. The TOEFL institution code for OSU is 6546.
- Prospective graduate students who score a 26 or better on the speaking portion of the IBT or an IELTS speaking score of 8.5 or higher will be cleared for clinician assignments.
- Prospective graduate students who are unable to access the IBT or the IELTS prior to arrival at OSU may receive authorization to take the Versant English Test. A passing score on the Versant English Test will enable the student to be considered for clinical assignments. Alternatively, an official IELTS, academic stream, examination with a minimum overall band score of 6.5 will satisfy the English proficiency requirements for admission to a graduate program. Either examination (IELTS/TOEFL) must have been taken within the last two years.

Additional Requirements of Graduate College for Students taking the IBT

- Students who score at least 42 on the combined Reading and Listening portions of the IBT, with a score of at least 20 in each section, are not required to enroll in any remedial coursework.
- Students who score less than this on the Reading and Listening portions of the IBT (irrespective of the score on the Written portion) are required to enroll in ENGL 0003 during their first semester. ENGL 0003 carries a grade of S/U and may not be used toward minimum degree requirements. Students must enroll in ENGL 0003 each semester until a grade of S is earned.
- Students who score at or above the minimum score(s) on the Reading and Listening portion of the internet based TOEFL, but less than 22 on the Writing portion, are required to enroll in ENGL 4893* at some point in their studies. ENGL 4893* carries graduate credit and may be used toward minimum degree requirements; a grade of B or better in this course is required. Both ENGL 0003 and ENGL 4893*, as applicable, must be listed on the student's Plan of Study.

Additional Requirements of Graduate College for Students taking the PBT or IELTS

Students for whom English is not their native language and who submit a PBT version of the TOEFL, or who take the IELTS, must take the Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) upon arrival at OSU and comply with the provisions associated with that test. The TELP is administered on the Stillwater and Tulsa campuses before each regular semester through University Testing and Evaluation. A waiver of the TELP requirement will be granted to a student who has:

1. achieved a score of 600 PBT or higher on the TOEFL and a score of 5.0 or higher on the Test of Written English or Essay; or
2. achieved an IELTS, academic stream, overall band score of 6.5 or higher on each of the band scores for Listening, Reading and Writing.
A score of 70 on both portions of the TELP is considered passing. Students who score less than 70 on the Listening/Dictation portion of the TELP (irrespective of the score on the writing portion) are required to enroll in ENGL 0003 during their first semester. ENGL 0003 carries a grade of S/U and may not be used toward minimum degree requirements. Students must enroll in ENGL 0003 each semester until a grade of S is earned. Students who score at least 70 on the Listening/Dictation portion of the TELP, but less than 70 on the Writing portion are required to enroll in ENGL 4893 at some point in their studies. ENGL 4893 carries graduate credit and may be used toward minimum degree requirements; a grade of C or better in this course is required. Both ENGL 0003 and ENGL 4893, as applicable, must be listed on the student's Plan of Study and become part of the degree completion requirements.

Policy on students who speak English with accent, nonstandard dialects and/or who present with communication deficit(s)

All students who are enrolled in clinical practicum at the Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic are provided opportunities to evaluate and treat patients with communication disorders as long as they demonstrate knowledge on normal and disordered communication and are able to model the desired behavior. If there is a specific condition that prohibits the student from modeling the desired behavior to the patient, then the student will be provided active guidance on modeling the specific behavior before providing further clinical services to the patient. For example, a student speaking English with a certain accent could potentially have difficulty in modeling a target phoneme to a child with articulation disorder. In this case the student will be put on a remediation plan before providing further clinical services to the child. As a part of the remedial plan, the clinical supervisor will work with the student and provide guidance on modeling the target behavior. Once the student is able to demonstrate that he/she is capable of modeling the specific phoneme then he/she will be again assigned a patient with an articulation disorder.

The Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will not discriminate against persons based on their spoken dialect and language, race, color, religious affiliation, or parental status. In line with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association position statement “Students and Professionals Who Speak English With Accents and Nonstandard Dialects: Issues and Recommendations”, we understand that all individuals speak with an accent and/or dialect; thus, we facilitate our students to receive maximum clinical experience that they are entitled to.

Spoken English Proficiency Requirements for Seeking Employment at OSU

OSU policy requires all persons who are non-native English speaking to demonstrate an acceptable level of spoken English before being employed in an instructionally related capacity, including laboratory assignments. Graduate students who serve only as laboratory assistants (e.g., setting up and/or maintaining equipment) are not required to comply with the provisions of this section.