Preparing for the Oral English Proficiency Test:

A Guide for Students and their Departments

For more information on the OEPP and its services, please visit the OEPP website or speak with your department’s graduate studies office.

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Your department may ask you to take the OEPT. Only your department can register you to take the OEPT. The OEPT is one method your department uses to determine which of their graduate students may be best suited to assist with an undergraduate class at Purdue. By University policy, any student whose first language is not English must be certified for oral English proficiency before being offered a position involving the direct instruction of undergrad students. If you did not meet any of the following minimum scores for certification, and your department wants to hire you to work with undergraduates, you will need to take the OEPT:

- IELTS speaking: 8.0
- TOEFL iBT speaking: 27
- PTE speaking: 76

If you did not take any of the above tests, you may need to take the OEPT. Why do you need to take the OEPT?

How to Prepare for the Test

- Take the OEPT practice test at least once. There are 2 versions of the practice test.
- The OEPT practice test, sample responses, rating scale, and a video orientation are on the OEPP web site and at: http://oepttutorial.org/
- Check out other test and orientation information on the OEPP web site: http://www.purdue.edu/oepp/
- Get your OEPT registration information from your department: location, date, and time of the test. Print out a copy to keep with you.

Tips for Test Day

- Arrive at the testing lab 20 minutes before the test begins. If you arrive more than 10 minutes after the posted test starting time, you may not be allowed to take the test.
- Wait in the hallway until you are asked to enter the test room.
- Have your Purdue ID or other official photo ID ready (passport or U.S. driver's license). We do not accept: electronic IDs, IDs without photos, or IDs that are not in English.
- If you do not have a photo ID, you will not be allowed to take the test.
- Bring a bottle of water with a screw-on cap, but no other food or drink.
- Turn off and put away all electronic devices before entering the lab.
- Put all belongings (including cell phones) away in your bag, backpack, purse, etc. You must leave all bags in the front of the testing lab.
- You will be provided with paper and pencils to take notes.
- You may want to bring a sweater or jacket in case the lab is cold.