Preparing for the Oral English Proficiency Test:

A Guide for Students and Their Departments

What to do during the test: Testing Dos and Don’ts

- Do speak at a regular speed, not too fast and not too slow.
- Do speak in a moderate volume. Don’t speak in a loud voice.
- Prepare and organize each response. Speak clearly.
- Be aware that there will be noise in the testing lab. While every effort is made to leave space between students, you may hear other test takers talking during the test.
- Do give feedback on the short survey that follows the test.
- Do leave your notes and test ID slip on your desk.
- Don’t leave until a test administrator has checked your desktop.

When you finish the test and survey, before you leave

- Do not close the test page.
- Leave your notes on your desk. Write your test ID number at the top of each page on which you have taken notes.
- Leave your test ID slip on your desk with your notes.
- Raise your hand to call a test administrator to check your computer and notes.
- Don’t forget to pick up all your belongings at the front of the room on your way out.
- Take a green brochure with you and read it later; it contains information about test scores and the English 620 course.

For more information on the OEPP and its services, please visit the OEPP website or speak with your department’s graduate studies office.
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 teach undergraduates 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 have not met any of the following minimum scores for certification, and your department wants to hire you to teach undergraduates, you will need to take the OEPT:

TOEFL iBT speaking: 27
IELTS speaking: 8.0
(Scores must be less than 2 years old.)

If you did not take either of the above tests, you may need to take the OEPT.

How to Prepare for the OEPT

- Take the OEPT practice test at least once. There are 2 versions of the practice test.
- The OEPT practice test, 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. Save the email in case you are asked to show it to the test administrator.

Tips for Test Day

- Arrive 15 minutes before the test begins for Orientation.
- 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.
- Have in your hand what you need to log on with BoilerKey—cell phone or physical token. Turn off all sounds and alarms on cell phones.
- Put all other belongings 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/pen to take notes.
- You may want to bring a sweater or jacket in case the lab is cold.