

**Verification of Spoken English Language Competency
for Appointment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant
University of Kansas, Lawrence**

Board of Regents policy requires that all prospective graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) whose first language is not English shall have their spoken English competency assessed prior to being considered for appointments as graduate teaching assistants. The assessment has two components: an interview, conducted either face to face or by mediated means, by no fewer than three institutional representatives, as least one of whom must be a student; and achievement of a minimum score on one of several standard tests of spoken English competency. The complete [Board of Regents policy](#) can be found at the [KU Policy Library](#).

The University of Kansas has adopted the following minimum scores for GTAs: Test of Spoken English (TSE)—50; Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK) – 50; Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT) spoken English component – 22; International English Language Testing System (IELTS) spoken English component – 8.

Upon their arrival at KU, graduate students who have been offered GTA positions on the basis of their iBT or IELTS scores will take the SPEAK test at the Applied English Center (AEC). Students who do not earn a 50 on the SPEAK will not forfeit their GTA positions, but the AEC may recommend specific AEC courses to help overcome deficiencies. For more information about using the iBT and IELTS to assess spoken English competency, see https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/iBT_IELTS_score_statement.doc.

For the initial appointment of any GTA whose first language is not English, units must submit this verification form, with the SPEAK, TSE, iBT, or IELTS score attached, to the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (for appointments in the College) or to the Dean of Graduate Studies (for appointments in the professional schools).

The following information serves as verification that _____, a graduate student whose first language is not English, meets Board of Regents requirements on Spoken English Language Competency and is eligible for appointment as a graduate teaching assistant.

He/she is has achieved a minimum score of 50 on the TSE or SPEAK, or a score of 22 on the iBT, or a score of 8 on the IELTS (copy of score attached)

AND

He/she has been interviewed by and has had his/her competency in spoken English certified by the three institutional personnel listed below, at least one of whom is a student.

NAME	UNIVERSITY ROLE (faculty, staff, or student)
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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name and position of unit representative (e.g., chair, dean, or graduate director)

Signature

Unit name

Date