

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Information Sheet

Nonnative English speaking graduate students in the Linguistics and English Language Department must provide evidence of competency in speaking the English language by completing an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) within their first semester. The OPI is an interview aimed at assessing English language speaking proficiency and is conducted in English by an ACTFL-certified tester. If the results of the interview indicate that speaking ability is not sufficient (lower than a rating of Advanced-Mid), ESL 301 and ESL 302 will be required. (Note: Students who score at a rating of Intermediate-High or lower will be required to take both ESL 301 and 302.)

Furthermore, any nonnative English speaking student (either graduate or undergraduate) wishing to work or do an internship at the English Language Center (ELC) must also take an OPI.

To fulfill this requirement, you can have an official OPI through Language Testing International (LTI) for \$134 (www.languagetesting.com). Your other option is to have a BYU Advisory OPI by an ACTFL-certified tester. The cost of an Advisory OPI is \$30.

The ESL ACTFL-certified testers at BYU are:

Troy Cox

Phone: 801-422-5755
Email: troy_cox@byu.edu
Office: 119 UPC

Chantal Thompson

Phone: 801-422-2782
Email: chantal_thompson@byu.edu
Office: 3125 JFSB

If you choose to have an Advisory OPI, follow this procedure:

1. Set up the Appointment

Set up an appointment for the interview by contacting one of the testers. To ensure your rating is unbiased, it is best if someone that does not know you personally conducts the interview.

If this is a retest (that is, you have already taken an OPI in the past) you must wait at least 60 days before taking the test again, and you must go to a different interviewer. If you have already met with all the BYU ACTFL Certified Testers, you will need to contact LTI for an official OPI.

2. Have the Interview

Meet the tester at his or her office at the appointed time. Bring a check or money order for \$30.00 payable to the tester (either Troy Cox or Chantal Thompson). In addition, bring a blank cassette tape with at least 30 minutes of recording space on each side. Plan on 30 minutes for the interview.

3. Obtain Score

After the interview, the interviewer will inform you and the Linguistics and English Language Department of the results. If you desire, you can also be provided with a written letter indicating your OPI proficiency level.

Note: The English Language Center (ELC) requires nonnative English speaking applicants to have an OPI rating of at least Advanced-High in order to be considered for a teaching position and at least Advanced Mid to work in any other position (e.g. tutor, intern, lab attendant, etc.). However since the OPI does not include any assessment of teaching ability or work ethic, a passing rating does not guarantee that the applicant will be allowed to work at the ELC.