

*Linguistics Undergraduate/Graduate Students*

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Information Sheet

Non-native English speaking graduate students in the Linguistics Department must provide evidence of competency in speaking in 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 Students rated at Intermediate-High or lower are required to take *both* ESL 301 and ESL 302. Students who are rated as Advanced-low or Advanced-mid may be required to take ESL 301, ESL 302, or both classes after consulting with their Advisor.

Furthermore, any non-native 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.

Once accepted into the program, the ELC will reach out to students to schedule an Advisory OPI. If a student wishes, they can test through Language Testing International (LTI) for \$134 ([www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com)). There is no cost for the Advisory test through the ELC.

There are several testers at the ELC:

Arwen Wyatt  
Phone: 801-422-3137  
Email: [arwen\\_wyatt@byu.edu](mailto:arwen_wyatt@byu.edu)  
176 UPC

Karina Jackson  
Phone: 801-422-6129  
Email: [karina\\_jackson@byu.edu](mailto:karina_jackson@byu.edu)  
150 UPC

Judson Hart  
Phone: 801-422-4042  
Email: [judson\\_hart@byu.edu](mailto:judson_hart@byu.edu)  
152 UPC

The ESL ACTFL-certified tester on BYU campus is:

Troy Cox  
Phone: 801-422-5755  
Email: [troy\\_cox@byu.edu](mailto:troy_cox@byu.edu)  
3086A JFSB

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

1. When contacted by the ELC, set up the appointment with 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. Plan on 30 minutes for the interview.
3. Obtain Score  
After the interview, the interviewer will inform you and the Linguistics 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 non-native 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.