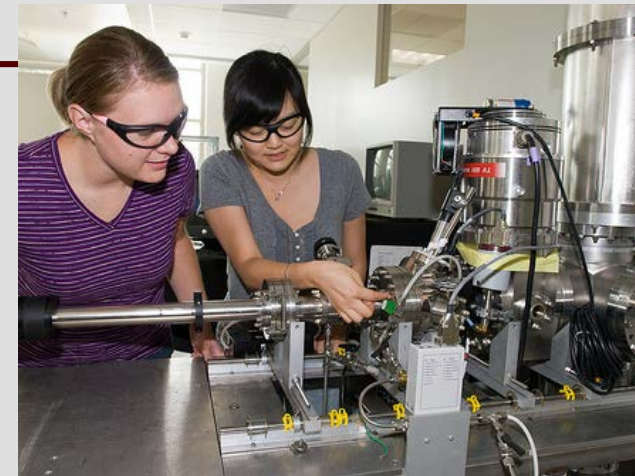


English Language Proficiency Overview and Updates



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Verification vs. Certification

- **English Language Proficiency (ELP) Verification**

Required of *all* TAMU international students for whom English is not the native language (as defined by the Office of Admissions)

- **English Language Proficiency (ELP) Certification**

Required of *all* TAMU international students who will serve as Graduate Assistants – Teaching.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agency. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is a part of ICE associated with international students and monitors school and exchange visitor programs.

SEVP requires that prospective F-1 students receive acceptance into SEVP-certified schools. SEVP-certified schools must require international students to have a certain level of English proficiency to receive a *Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status* (Form I-20) and admittance.

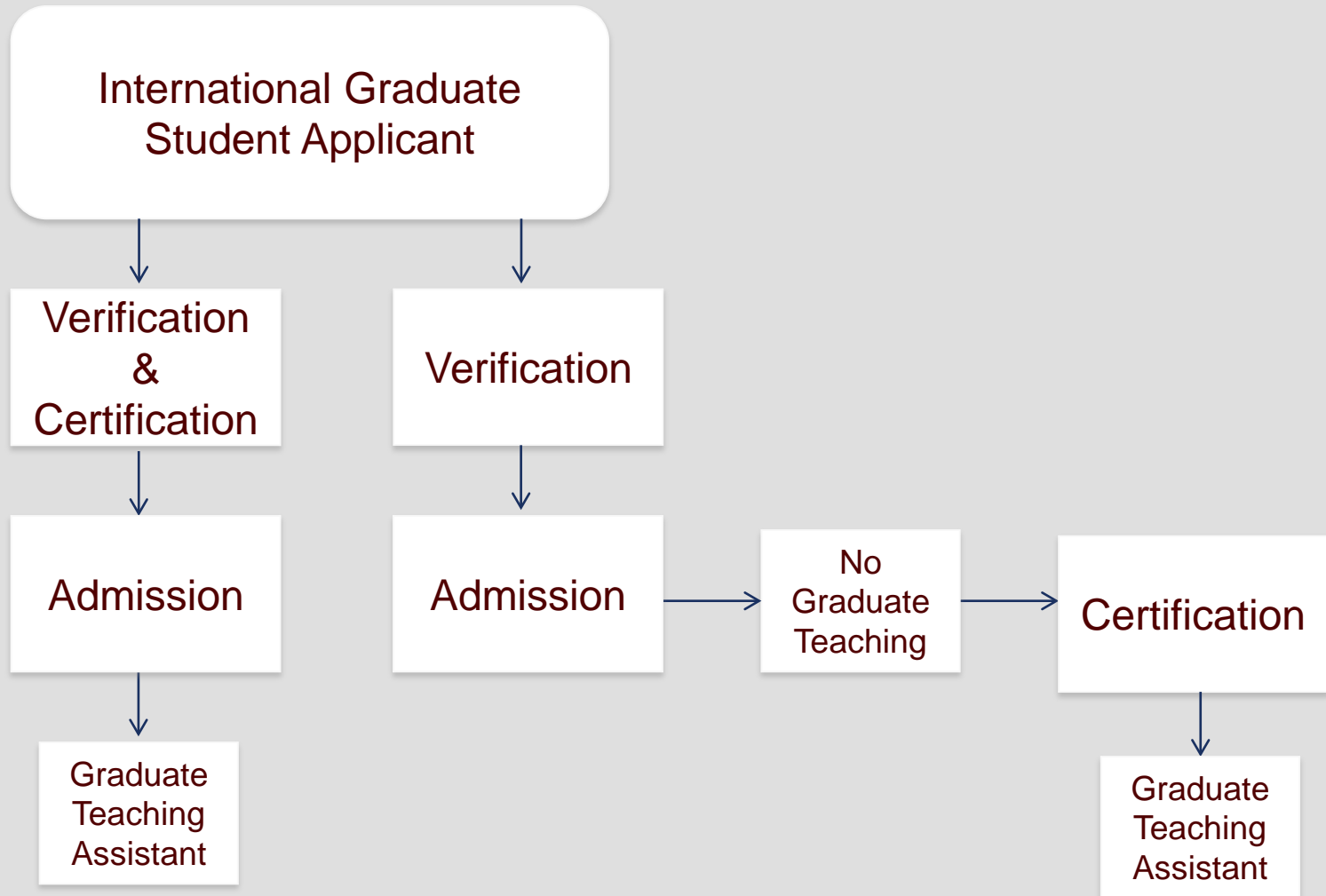
At TAMU, this level is call **ELP verification**.

International graduate student applicants to TAMU must attain ELP **verification** to receive ISS documents and achieve admission

- a minimum TOEFL score (from a test date within two years) of: 550 for paper-based or 80 internet-based testing, OR
- a minimum IELTS overall score of 6.0, OR
- a minimum PTE Academic score of 53, OR
- a GRE Verbal Reasoning score of at least 146, OR
- a GMAT Verbal Score of at least 22 (subject to departmental approval)

Individual colleges may choose to establish verification test score standards that exceed the University minimum for English Proficiency Verification

ELP Requirements

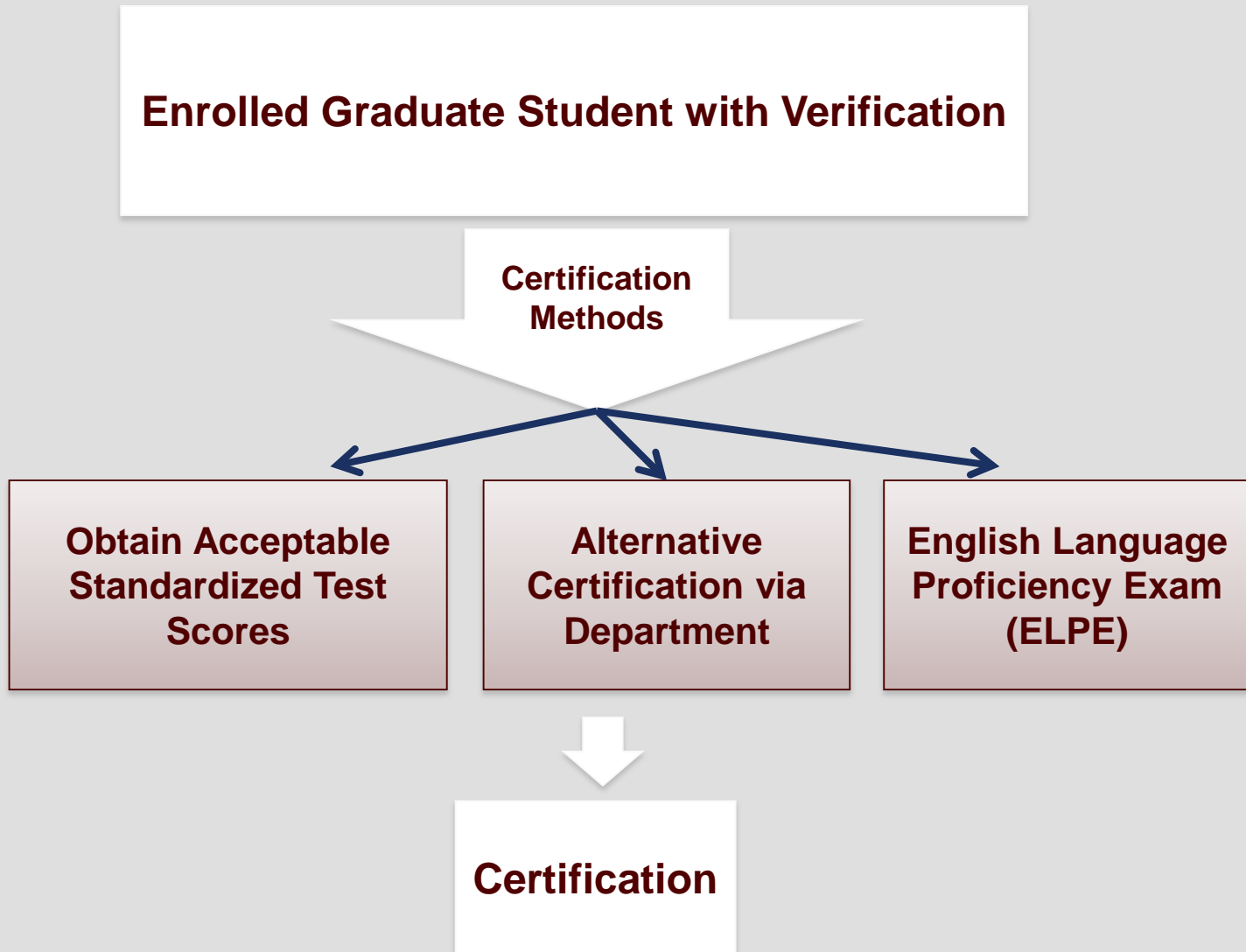


No Alternative Verification Methods

Since SEVP-certification has led to an ELP verification requirement for admission, no alternative methods of ELP verification exist.

For example, **no emergency deferral** of verification is possible.

Also, international graduate students holding a master's degree from an accredited U.S. institution are **required to document receipt of that degree** (and hence verification) prior to admission.



Eligibility levels for international graduate students serving in teaching positions:

Level 1: Students eligible for teaching assignments

Level 2: Students conditionally eligible for teaching assignments for one semester only, but must simultaneously participate in CTE-ELP instruction and achieve a certifying score on the ELPE by the end of the semester.

Level 3: Students not eligible for teaching assignment. Students should participate in spoken language training (such as those provided by CTE-ELP) to assist them in meeting English language proficiency requirements. Student must retake ELP-certifying test.


- The Texas Education Code requires proficiency of English language speaking for graduate student teachers. Thus, for **ELP Certification**, acceptable scores on **spoken language sections of standardized tests** can be used as a basis for that certification to teach.

	Global Standardized Tests		
Level #	TOEFL speaking section	IELTS speaking section	PTE speaking section
1	26-30	≥ 8.0	≥ 85
2	23-25	7.0-7.5	75-84
3	< 23	< 7.0	< 75

- A department can request that a student have **Alternative Certification** if the student:
 - has received a bachelor's degree after 4 years of study at an accredited U.S. institution
 - OR
 - has previous experience / training that would deem the student proficient in the English language.
- Departments initiate alternative certification requests.
- The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies will determine on a case-by-case basis whether to grant alternative certification.

Alternative Certification Method

The student should provide documentation that the department deems sufficient to merit alternative certification. The department submits the Request form for Alternative Certification to OGAPS.

Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 

Alternative Certification Form
English Language Proficiency Requirements

Departments initiate alternative certification requests.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student UIN: _____

Department Head Name (Print): _____

Department Head
Signature: _____

Check one of the following options:

Option One: The student listed above has received a baccalaureate degree following four years of study at an accredited U.S. institution or institutions, and therefore qualifies for alternative certification.

Option Two: Other Alternative Certification Requests

All other requests for alternative certification require strong department justification and review in compliance with Office of Graduate and Professional Studies policies and guidelines. The student should provide the department with documentation to support alternative certification requests based on previous experiences and/or training. Departments should provide a brief justification below for the alternative certification request. Attach all supporting documentation to this form.

ELPE Certification Method

- The English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE) evaluates English skills in the areas of reading, listening, written composition and oral communication.
- The Texas Education Code requires proficiency of English language speaking for graduate student teachers. Thus, for **ELP Certification**, only the oral communication section of the ELPE is required and a Graduate Student must score **at least 80** on English Language Proficiency Certified.

ELPE Certification Method

The ELPE consists of three tasks designed to assess the language demands associated with college level instruction:

1. a reading, which targets careful language production;
2. a presentation, which targets planned language production; and
3. an interview, which targets extemporaneous language production.

	Locally Administered (on Texas A&M campus) Exam
Level #	ELPE oral exam
1	80
2	75
3	65

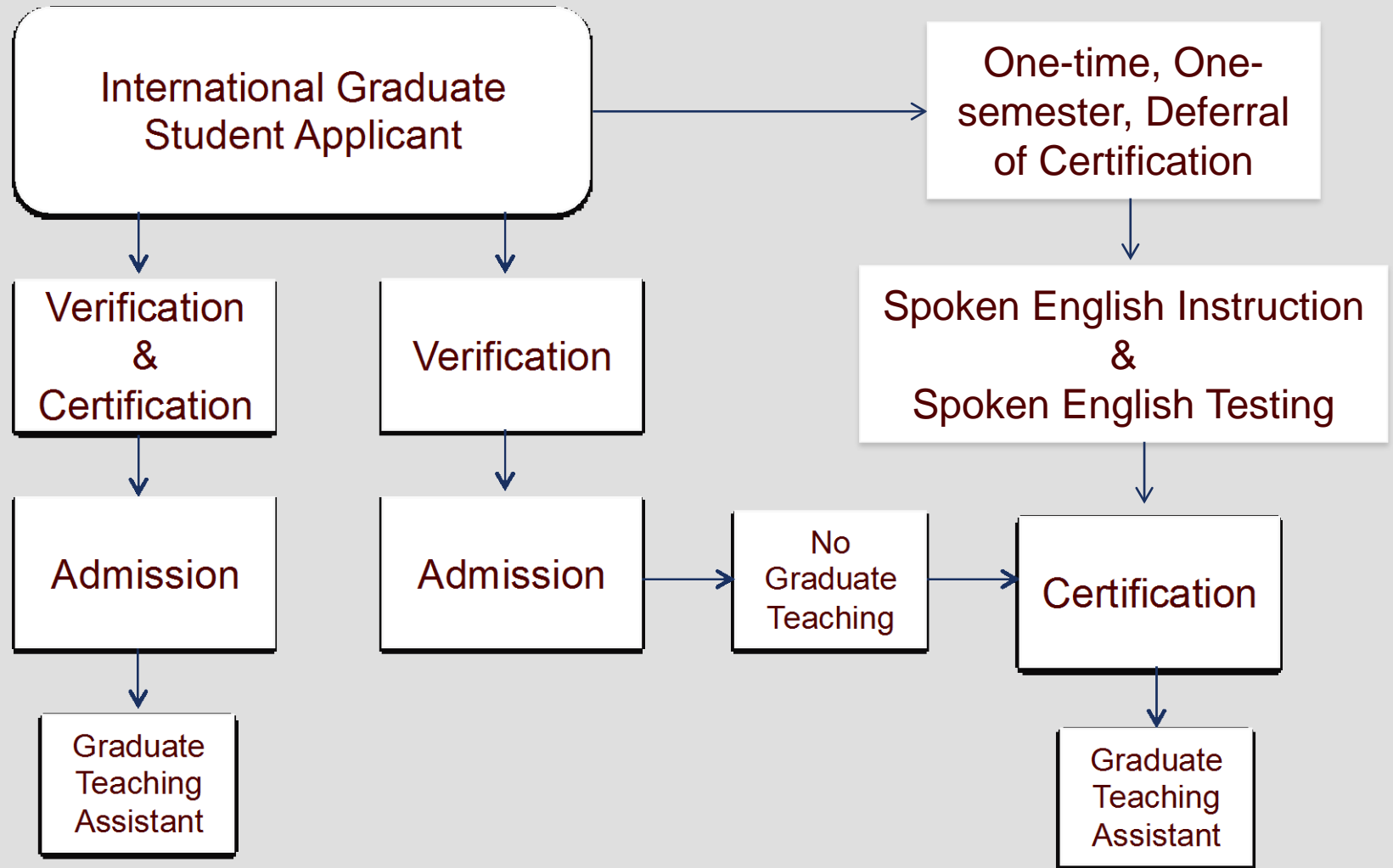
- International students should visit the ELPE area of the [Data and Research Services website](#) for more information on upcoming exam dates and how to register for the English Language Proficiency Exam.
- **August Exam Dates:**
 - **Saturday, August 12, 2017**
 - **Saturday, August 19, 2017**
 - **Sunday, August 27, 2017**

Emergency One-Semester Deferral of ELP Certification

On rare occasions, a department may need to hire an international graduate student as a Graduate Assistant – Teaching (GAT) who has not achieved English Proficiency Certification based on standardized test scores, ELPE or Alternative Certification.

In such a case, a department may request a **One-time, One-semester Emergency Deferral of Certification.**

Emergency One-Semester Deferral of ELP Certification



Emergency One-Semester Deferral of ELP Certification



Emergency One-Semester Deferral of ELP Certification

The level of justification for approval of an emergency deferral is very high.

Examples of justifiable conditions for a case in which the student has not been certified and the following conditions exist:

- The department had not anticipated hiring this student as a GAT for this semester; and
- The student is ELP verified; and
- The student did not have an opportunity to take the ELPE before the start of classes; and
- The department has no other options of graduate students with the expertise/knowledge needed to TA the course.

ELP-Related Questions

For questions about English Language Proficiency Requirements please contact:

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
ogaps@tamu.edu or 979.845.3631

or check the ELP Portal online
<http://ogaps.tamu.edu/elp-portal>

English Language Proficiency Program

Center for Teaching Excellence
Texas A&M University



TEXAS A&M
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Purpose

The Center for Teaching Excellence's English Language Proficiency (CTE-ELP) program is a linguistic service provided to international graduate students and faculty who wish to improve their spoken English skills.



Participants will...

- Review the priority groups for CTE-ELP instruction
- Review the procedure for handling ITAs with Level 2 language proficiency
- Familiarize themselves with the process of English Language Certification
- Familiarize themselves with CTE-ELP programming
- Familiarize themselves with the revised procedure for retesting the ELPE



Priority Groups for CTE-ELP instruction

Table 1. Priority groups for CTE-ELP instruction

Priority	Graduate Students or Instructors	Currently Teaching	Proficiency Level(s)
Group 1	Graduate Students	✓ (with departmental verification*)	2
Group 2	Graduate Students	-----	2 & 3
Group 3	Instructors (including Level 1 ITAs)	✓	1
Group 4	Graduate Students	-----	-----

*Students with Level 2 proficiency are not considered Group 1 until they have submitted a departmental verification form signed by their supervisors confirming that they are currently serving as Teaching Assistants.



Departmental Verification

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost



Departmental Verification for CTE-ELP instruction

Student Name: _____

Student UIN: _____

Supervisor's Name (Print): _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____

This is to verify that the student listed above meets the following criteria for priority service with the CTE-ELP program:

- The student is presently conditionally English Language Certified at proficiency level 2;
- The student is currently serving as a Teaching Assistant in _____ (department).

I understand that the above-named student must register with the CTE-ELP program by the 2nd week of the semester.

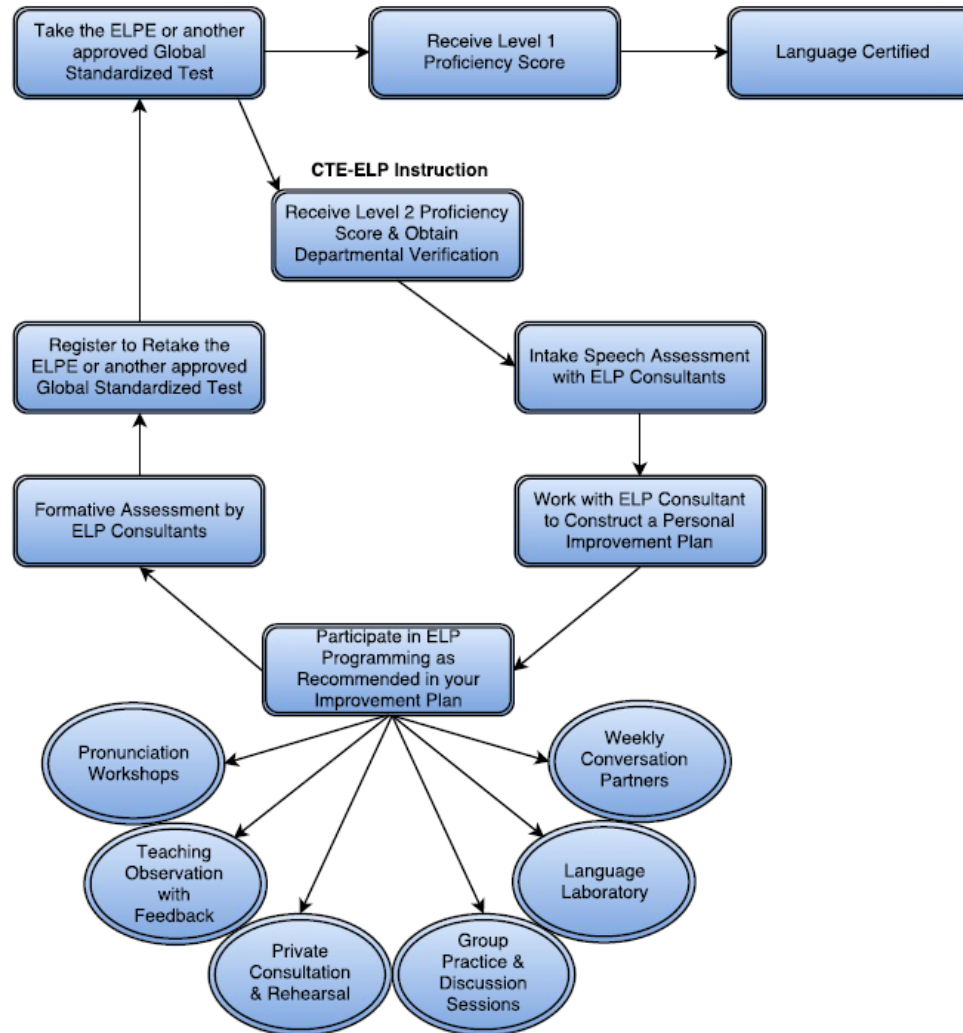


Deadline to begin CTE-ELP instruction

Group 1 students must
contact the CTE-ELP program
to begin their instruction
no later than week 2
of each semester.



Pathway to Certification



CTE-ELP programming

Activity	Description	Target Audience
Private Consultation and Rehearsal	Participants build upon pronunciation proficiency and fluency through strategic readings, practice motor control of the vocal tract, and receive feedback about their progress.	Group 1 (Groups 2 & 3 as appointments are available)
Language Laboratory with Pronunciation Software	Participants develop listening discrimination of English pronunciation, knowledge of the features and manipulation of the vocal tract, and automaticity.	Groups 1-4
Group Practice & Discussion Sessions	Participants rehearse functional language for instruction; learn to anticipate and repair common communication breakdowns; develop peer support, supra-segmental skills, and fluency; and cultivate an awareness and appreciation for diversity and cultural differences.	Group 1 (Groups 2 & 3 as space permits)



CTE-ELP programming

Activity	Description	Target Audience
Teaching Observation with Feedback	Participants receive observation and feedback from an ELP Consultant to assess their linguistic performance in action. They additionally practice self-assessment skills.	Group 1 (Group 3 as time permits)
Weekly Conversation Partners	Participants develop fluency and an awareness & appreciation for cultural difference in the classroom through an application of pronunciation knowledge via authentic dialogue with a native speaker of English.	Group 1 (Groups 2 & 3 as appointments are available)
Pronunciation Workshops	Participants develop phonological awareness and familiarity with CTE-ELP services.	Groups 1-4



Group 1 participants receive...

- Individualized instruction using a variety of delivery methods
- Regular formative assessment from ELP Consultants
- Reports documenting their participation and progress (at midterm and final)
- Waivers to retest the ELPE before three months have elapsed (with approval by CTE-ELP Consultants after a review the student's progress)



Retesting for Certification

- A student may retake the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE at any time to achieve English Language Certification.
- All international students are eligible to retake the ELPE once every three months.
- Group 1 students only may request approval from the CTE-ELP program to retest the ELPE before three months have elapsed.



Waiver to Retest ELPE

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost



Waiver to Retest the English Language Proficiency Examination form

Student Name: _____

Student UIN: _____

CTE-ELP Consultant Name (Print): _____

CTE-ELP Consultant Signature: _____

Please allow the student listed above to retest the English Language Proficiency Exam. I attest that the student meets the following criteria:

- The student is presently conditionally certified at proficiency level 2;
- The student is currently serving as a Teaching Assistant;
- The student has been consistently participating in CTE-ELP instruction and following the prescribed proficiency improvement plan; and
- The student has made demonstrable gains in language proficiency.



Deadline for ELPE retest requests

Requests to retest the ELPE must be made through the CTE-ELP program 7 business days before the exam is scheduled.

e.g. If the ELPE is scheduled for Saturday 12 August, the student's appointment with the CTE-ELP program to request a retest should be scheduled no later than Thursday 3 August.



For more information, contact:

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Thank You.

Questions?



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