

**English Language Proficiency Rating Scale for International TAs (ITAs)**  
**The Graduate School**

These ratings are used to describe your overall level of oral language proficiency. The Graduate School will only recommend those with ratings of “1” or “2” to hold TA duties involving contact with undergraduate students. However, your department will undoubtedly consider many other factors aside from your language proficiency when assigning your TA duties. For example, your department may consider your experience in your discipline, prior teaching experience, and your general aptitude for undergraduate teaching.

**Descriptors**

- 1** ITAs at this level communicate with near-native English proficiency, with idiomatic vocabulary and clear pronunciation. They are ready to teach and need no additional English study.
- 2** ITAs at this level communicate effectively in English. They may have minor problems with grammar, vocabulary, and/or pronunciation, but these do not interfere significantly with intelligibility. They can hold regular TA responsibilities. *While many in this group need no additional study, ENL 640 may be required or recommended for some students.*
- 3** ITAs at this level have less than adequate speaking skills for teaching in English. They have limited control of grammar and vocabulary, and little or no familiarity with idiomatic expressions. Much of their pronunciation requires extra-sympathetic listening. They should be given limited TA duties that do not involve direct contact with students (e.g., grading, setting up labs, proctoring exams). *They will require a continuing oral language program (e.g., ENL 610).*
- 4** ITAs at this level have extremely limited English speaking skills and are difficult to understand. Their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary (including idiomatic expressions) is insufficient for instructional purposes. Poor pronunciation obscures the meaning of many words or phrases. They should be given only those duties that do not require contact with undergraduates. *They will be required to enroll in a basic ESOL program and should not hold any teaching responsibilities.*