

Oral English Proficiency Program

Original Implementation: September, 1990

Last Revision: January 27, 2015

Legislation enacted by the Texas Legislature requires instruction at public colleges and universities to be delivered in understandable English. Each public institution is required to adopt a policy establishing a procedure to ensure that proficient English is spoken by all faculty members. "Faculty member" means a person who teaches a course offered for academic credit by an institution of higher education, including teaching assistants, instructors, lab assistants, research assistants, lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors and full professors.

A faculty member may use a foreign language to conduct foreign language courses designed to be taught in a foreign language. A faculty member may also provide individual assistance during course instruction to a non-English-speaking student in the native language of the student.

Enforcement

New faculty members, as defined in this policy, who do not identify English as their primary language will demonstrate their oral proficiency in English through a two-part assessment:

- Take and pass a locally administered interview-based speaking and listening assessment.
- Allow observation of a regularly scheduled class by a two person team from the university's English Language Institute (ELI). The observation will occur during the first two weeks of employment.

The unit head will place in the faculty member's employment file the results of the oral proficiency performance. A copy of the English proficiency outcome will be forwarded to the appropriate dean.

Faculty members who do not demonstrate proficiency in oral English will be required to complete successfully the Speaking and Listening course of the ELI program. Texas law requires the faculty member to bear the costs of the program.

Cross Reference: Tex. Educ. Code §51.917

Responsible for Implementation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Contact for Revision: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Forms: None

Board Committee Assignment: Academic and Student Affairs