
All About Graduate Teaching Assistantships

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Three ways to get funding

- Fellowships
 - » If you have one, you already know about this
 - Only awarded to new students, not students already here
- Graduate Research assistantships
 - » Your advisor has funded grants or contracts
 - » You are hired by your advisor directly
- Graduate Teaching assistantships
 - » Administered by department (me)
- All of these pay tuition and fees

Spoken English

- All GTA's are required to demonstrate proficiency in spoken English
 - » Ohio Law
- Four ways to accomplish this (details next slides)
 - » Show you grew up in USA
 - » Get a great score on the iBT TOEFL
 - » Pass the OPA (Oral Proficiency Assessment)(given locally on campus)

Show you grew up in USA...

- If you grew up in US, England, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada, you're exempt
 - » Except if you grew up in Puerto Rico, Quebec or anywhere English is not the primary language
- “Grow up” means spent most of your childhood in these countries
 - » “Lived there a couple years” not sufficient
 - » Growing up in countries where English is widespread but not the primary language does not count
- If in doubt, take the test

Get a great score on the iBT TOEFL

- If you get iBT TOEFL speaking component score of 28, 29 or 30, administered by ETS, you are certified
- Or, if you took IELTS and got 8.5 or higher, you are certified

Pass the OPA test


- Given locally at OSU

OSU=> College of Education and Human Ecology=>English as a Second Language=>Spoken English Program

- » Offered at least once a month
- » Make an appointment online
- » Cost to student is \$95

ESL | English as a Second Language Programs



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ESL Programs at The Ohio State University provides extraordinary learning opportunities for international students and non-native speakers of English.



American Language Program

OSU's pre-admission intensive English program for language and academic preparation



Established in 1983, the American Language Program (ALP) serves both graduate and undergraduate students who are not yet proficient in English. While most intend to pursue an academic program at OSU, some will study at other universities or use the skills gained in business or commercial settings. As ALP students they enroll in language skills courses at one of five levels from beginning through advanced. Their courses also help them adjust to their new surroundings, both academic and social.

[American Language Program](#)

[More about the American Language Program](#)

ESL Composition Program

OSU's post-admission writing program for graduate and undergraduate students



Established in the 1950's, ESL Composition (ESLC) offers a broad spectrum of courses which assist students in development of writing skills necessary for them to perform successfully as writers in OSU courses. ESLC courses teach writing as a means of communication as well as self-expression, and focus on both the process and product of writing. Tutorial sessions offered in every course provide students with opportunities to discuss their writing assignments and their progress as learners and writers.

[ESL Composition Program](#)

[More about the ESL Composition Program](#)

Spoken English Program

OSU's post-admission program training and certifying international teaching assistants



Established in 1986, the Spoken English Program (SEP) screens all prospective international teaching assistants, provides coursework in classroom communication for those who require it, and administers performance tests which certify them to teach at OSU. SEP courses focus on improving spoken fluency and pronunciation as well as the development of intercultural and pedagogical skills. Students attend tutorials, work with conversation partners, and take final oral interview and mock teaching tests.

[Spoken English Program](#)

[More about the Spoken English Program](#)

They will place you

- They will “place” you:
 - » You could be certified to teach right then
 - » Could be placed in EDUTL 5040 or 5050
 - » Could be “conditionally certified” but that won’t make you eligible for most of our GTA assignments

If you don't pass the OPA

- If you place into EDUTL 5050 (English course, also teaches teaching skills)
 - » At end, take Mock Teaching Test
 - Give a 10 minute lecture to a real audience
 - If you pass, you're certified!
 - If you don't, take EDUTL 5050 again

If you place into EDUTL 5040

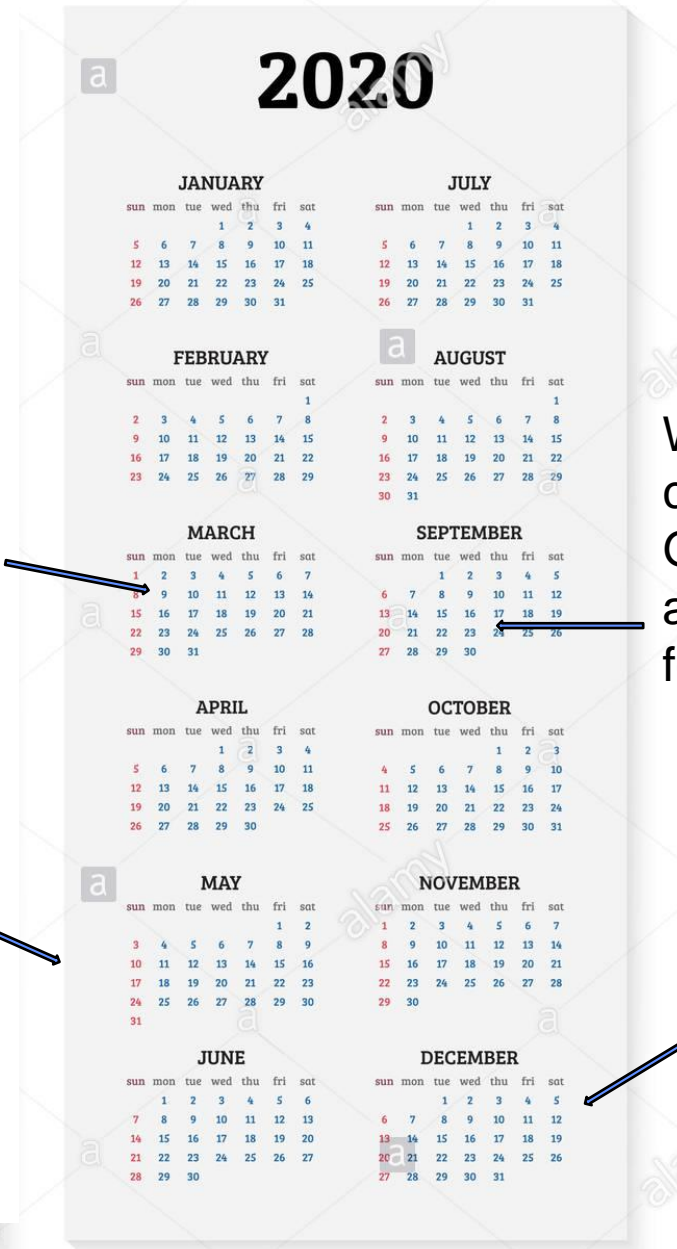
- You take EDUTL 5040
- Following semester, take 5050
- Become certified after taking Mock Teaching Test at end of 5050

When you pass the test...

- Send me a copy of the test result so I can add you to the list of eligible GTAs.

When I complete GTA assignments for autumn

When you receive test results in 5050



When I complete GTA assignments for spring

When you receive test results in 5050

Do it soon!

- By the time you take the test at the end of the semester, all GTA assignments for the next semester are already gone
 - » If you take the test before mid-September, you are eligible to be a GTA for spring
 - » If you take the test in December and pass, your next opportunity to be a GTA is next Autumn
 - » If you don't pass, now you're looking at spring after next!

Internal Teaching Test

- If you pass Spoken English, there is a department teaching test
 - » Like the Mock Teaching test- 10-minute lecture on some sophomore topic
 - » If I see your Mock teaching test, this is waived for you (counts as your test)
 - » We just want to make sure GTA's are good teachers

What do GTA's do?

- Might teach labs
 - » You are the instructor
 - » Two sections of a 4-hour lab or three sections of a 3-hour lab
 - » We have some basic circuit labs, but we also have a range of higher-level labs that are more specialized
- May be asked to grade for a large course plus hold office hours
- On rare occasions may be asked to help with course development
 - » If no student contact, don't need spoken English certification

How do I apply?

- Applications will be sent out by email in the middle of the semester
 - » Goes to all matriculated ECE graduate students
 - » If you don't get it by end of Sept, contact me
 - » If you don't apply, I won't put you on the list
 - Even if you applied in the past
 - I can't tell who is on GRA or whatever
 - I can't tell if you're away on internship
 - I don't necessarily know who has graduated or dropped out
 - Just reapply.

How are GTAs selected?

- You must be certified in Spoken English
- You must be an excellent teacher
- You must not have had a lot of GTA support before
- Your advisor must not have had lots of his/her students supported on GTA before

After those criteria are met:

□ Priority order:

1. Fellowship students who were promised support as part of recruiting package (this is rare-see your letter for details)
2. PhD students who have been funded on GRA in the past but advisor is experiencing gaps in funding
3. Students with special skills (e.g. can cover specialized labs)
4. Other PhD students
 1. Passed Candidacy>Passed Qualifier>not passed either
5. MS students who have been funded on GRA in the past
6. Other MS students

More comments on GTA selection

- There are typically ≈ 12 GTA's per semester
 - » We have ≈ 400 graduate students
- We try not to give GTAs to the same people over and over
 - » Spread it around students
 - » Spread it around faculty advisors
- Your advisor has to say you're making good progress toward your degree
- Conclusion: TA funding can help, but can't be counted on to get you through graduate school

Teaching Aides (Graders)

- This is hourly (a few hours/week)
- TA1 and TA2
 - » TA1's are undergraduates who grade for large courses, are lab monitors, etc)
 - » TA2's are typically graduate students who grade/hold office hours for large classes, teach lab courses
- TA1/TA2 positions do not pay your tuition
- May not require English certification (if no student contact)
 - » Conditionally certified students MAY hold office hours

TA1 and TA2 (continued)

- Teaching Aid hours for courses based on number of students enrolled
 - » Bigger classes get more TA1/TA2 support hours
- I will let faculty know how many (if any) grading hours they get by end of first week of classes
- I send this information out to all graduate students too
- Faculty (not me!) will choose and hire their graders.
- You can NOT be an hourly TA a GRA/GTA at the same time

Other opportunities

- Graduate Administrative Assistantships
 - » E.g., at the library or other organizations on campus
- GTAs in other departments
 - » E.g., freshman engineering courses
 - A good TA could work there for years
 - They hire for the year, and have already done their hiring for this year
 - » Math (?)

Commercial Break

- Secrets to Finding Good Courses
 - » Grad students can take courses in the 5000, 6000, 7000, and 8000-level
 - » You can take lower courses but they won't count toward your degree
 - A few 4000-level exceptions, but not in math or physics
 - » You can take courses in other departments!
 - Consider physics, chemistry, math, statistics, computer science, any other engineering department, anatomy...
 - Check with your advisor

But wait! There's more!

- Secret code internal to ECE:
 - » xx0x: communications and signal processing
 - » xx1x: electromagnetics and optics
 - » xx2x: circuits
 - » xx3x: solid state, nano, semiconductors, photonics
 - » xx4x: power and energy
 - » xx5x: controls
 - » xx6x: digital/computers

Another commercial break

- Certificates!
- There are three new certificates in semiconductor technology
 - » You take 13 credits from a list
 - » You get a Certificate! (In addition to your degree)
 - » You can double-count some of the courses toward your degree AND the certificate

They are

- Graduate Embedded Certificate in Semiconductor Devices
- Graduate Embedded Certificate in Semiconductor Fabrication
- Graduate Embedded Certificate in Semiconductor Optoelectronics

“Embedded” means for students who are here pursuing a graduate degree
There are stand-alone ones for people who are not in graduate school

Why?

- Will draw attention to your semiconductor skills
- Intel is coming to town!

Example: Semiconductor Devices

- 13 credits
- Take required 5530 (Fund. Semi Dev for Microelectronics and Photonics)
- Take at least one lab (5037 or 5537)
 - » 5037 used to be called "Solid state electronics and photonics Lab" but name is being changed to "Semiconductor Device Fabrication Lab"
 - » 5537 is "Semiconductor Device Characterization and Modelling Lab"
- Then take two more courses from a long list of electives

Certificate continued

- Note that 5530 and 5037 are offered in the autumn (now)
- Currently, you can double-count up to 6 credits toward both certificate and degree
 - » We are applying to allow 100% overlap
 - » It will be retroactive (if approved, you can double count even courses you take now)

Can I do more than one certificate?

- Yes! And you can double-count half the credits from the first one toward the second one
- And double count half the credits from the first and second toward the third!

More info

- Go to ECE website
- Scroll down



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