Script for OEPT Orientation Video

Congratulations on being accepted into one of the graduate programs at Purdue University. Purdue University is home to nearly 43 thousand students. Approximately 10,000 students are enrolled in the university's graduate programs. And, with 4,000 international graduate students, Purdue consistently has one of the largest international graduate student communities in the Midwest.

As a graduate student at Purdue, you will be a member of a privileged community of students who are able to take advantage of some of the best educational opportunities that are available in the United States. Your program may wish to hire you as a teaching assistant. As a teaching assistant, or TA, you will contribute to the instruction of undergraduate students enrolled in your department's classes. However, Purdue University policy states that graduate students for whom English is a second language must be certified for oral English proficiency before they can be offered a teaching assistantship that involves the direct instruction of undergraduate students. Students may be certified by a TOEFL iBT speaking score, or an IELTS score, that meets the university standard for oral English proficiency. You can find more information on scores accepted for certification on the OEPP website. Other students are certified by taking Purdue's local test, the Oral English Proficiency Test, more commonly referred to as the OEPT.

The OEPT is administered by the Oral English Proficiency Program at Purdue, or OEPP. The OEPP is the administrative unit on campus that oversees the university's policy on oral English proficiency. In addition to administering the test, the OEPP offers a course in ESL for students who are not certified and need to improve their spoken English skills in order to be eligible for a teaching assistantship. If you are being considered for a teaching assistantship, and you have not been certified by another method, your department will register you for the OEPT after you arrive on campus. The OEPT is a computer-based test and is administered in a computer laboratory. You will wear a headset in order to reduce ambient noise. The headset includes a microphone that will record your responses. Each item is accompanied by a set of instructions and suggestions on how to prepare your responses. A clock will appear on the screen during your preparation time to keep you informed of the time remaining. You will have 2 minutes to provide your responses for each of the items. It will take approximately 50 minutes to complete the entire test. During the administration of the test you may take notes. A sheet of paper and pencils will be provided for you. An administrator will be present at all times during the test. If you have any questions during

the test, ask the administrator for assistance. The administrators are there to help you. Test results are reported to your department in about one week. Students scoring 50 or above on the OEPT are certified in oral English proficiency by the test and are eligible to work as a TA with undergraduate students. Students scoring 45 or below require ESL instruction before they can be certified, and are placed on the waiting list for the OEPP's course, English 620, "Classroom Communication in ESL for International Teaching Assistants." Students in English 620 receive individualized instruction in English proficiency and also learn presentation techniques, providing a real benefit in terms of professional development. The course lasts for one semester and may be repeated up to two times, if necessary. Many students want to know how they can prepare for the OEPT. The best way to prepare is to take the practice test available on this website. Two different forms of the practice test are available, and you may record, save, and listen to your test responses. We hope this video has helped you become more familiar with the university's policy on oral English proficiency, and the services offered by the OEPP. If you'd like more information, please browse this website or contact your department's graduate studies office.