English as a Second Language Program

SPEAK Test Procedures

1. Pay the $125 fee on Shopnet (https://www.csuohio.edu/services-for-students/shopnet) and get payment receipt for SPEAK test.

2. Take your payment receipt and make an appointment for the SPEAK test by calling the Testing Center 216-687-2272 or stopping by the Testing Services office (RW 215).

3. Complete the SPEAK test form at the Testing Center when making the appointment. You must include the name of your Graduate Program Director and your contact information.

4. Take the SPEAK test at your appointment time.

The ESL office will receive your recording and it will be rated by two ESL professionals. Please do not call the ESL office as soon as you have completed the test. The Testing Services office staff will send us that the test and we will complete the rating as quickly as possible.

A score of 50 is needed for you to be cleared to accept a teaching assistantship without further restriction. However, a score of 45 will allow you to get an assistantship with concurrent enrollment in ESL 1504: Communication Skills for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs). ESL 1503, Intermediate English as a Second Language Speaking Skills is available for all non-native speaking graduate students (score 40 or lower), but no teaching assignment is permitted. The expenses for these classes are the students' responsibility. If you have any questions about the courses or the procedure, please contact the ESL Program. These courses are registered on Learning Stream (Continuing Education) at
https://reg.learningstream.com/view/cal4a.aspx?ek=&ref=&aa=&sid1=&sid2=&as=45&wp=216&tz=&ms=&nav=&cc=&cat1=&cat2=&cat3=&aid=CLEVESTATE&rf=&pn=

Official SPEAK Test Cancellation /Refund Policy

In order to receive 100% refund for the SPEAK test, you must cancel your appointment with the Testing Center at least 48 hours before your scheduled test. If you cancel your appointment before the scheduled time, but less than 48 hours, you will receive a 50% refund. If you request a refund, but did not cancel before the appointment, no refund will be issued. All refunds will be issued as a reversal of charges to your account. Refunds are not available in cash or check. Any questions must be directed to Dr. Michele Bowman, the ESL Program Director.

Contact: Michele S. Bowman. Ph.D.
             ESL Program Director
             216-875-9669
             m.s.bowman@csuohio.edu

What to Expect at the SPEAK test

The test lasts approximately 20-30 minutes and there are twelve questions on the test to which you respond.

You will be asked to:

- Respond to several questions about a map,
- Give your general opinion on everyday topics and your field of study
- Tell a story based on a six-picture sequence and answer a related question
- Describe a graph and answer a related question
- Take a role and give a short speech with information given.

Most of the time, you will be given a few seconds to think and to prepare each response. In these cases, you want to begin speaking as soon as possible. For some questions, the preparation time is longer, and in these cases, you will be told how much time you have to prepare your response. You may ask for a pencil to take notes. We do not recommend, however, that you attempt to write out and read your responses.

You will be instructed when to begin and stop speaking. As you speak, your voice will be recorded. Be sure to speak clearly and loudly enough for your responses to be recorded. Your responses should be complete and directly related to what is being asked. Attempting to use responses you have learned or prepared ahead of time may result in lower scores.

While some of the questions may not appear to be directly connected to your academic or professional field, each question is designed to tell the raters about your oral language ability in English. Your score for the test will be based on the recorded samples of your speech. Trained raters will assign a score for each response based on the scoring scale established for this test. Once scores are turned in, the ESL Program Director will create the final result and email the information to the student, the supervisor on the test registration form and Graduate Studies Office.