

Graduate Teaching Assistants' Communication in English language Revised Certification Requirements

Effective with the Fall 2006 term, graduate students who have not yet been certified and who did not complete both their primary and secondary education in a nation or territory in which English is the primary language must meet the following requirements in order to be certified to hold a Graduate Teaching Assistant appointment:

The first two requirements are dictated by the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 170.012, (<http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1700000012.htm>) and do not represent a change to the UMKC certification requirements:

- Students in this category may not hold a GTA appointment during their first term of enrollment at UMKC.
- If students in this category have not previously lived in the United States, they must participate in a cultural orientation to prepare them for their teaching appointment.

The next requirements represent changes to previous standards:

- To be eligible to be considered for full certification during the current term, students in this category must take the SPEAK test at UMKC's Applied Language Institute before the end of the second week of classes and achieve a score of **at least 52**. The SPEAK test is administered one time at no charge to the student.
- In order to be fully certified to hold a GTA appointment, students in this category must participate in a Teaching Effectiveness training session and present a simulated lecture (8-10 minutes in length) that is recorded and evaluated by faculty in the department or division where they hope to teach, a representative in the School of Graduate Studies, and at least one undergraduate student.
- At a mid-point in the semester, students in this category who are certified and receive GTA appointments will be evaluated by students in the classes to which they are assigned and the results of these evaluations will be reported to the chairs of their respective departments or divisions. Based upon the results of these evaluations, the department or divisions may recommend remedial measures.

Any student who takes the SPEAK test and scores below 52 **must** enroll in the 3-credit hour course, English 100F Academic English for International Graduate Teaching Assistants and Applicants. This course begins in the third week of classes and provides instruction in academic English, training in teaching techniques, and an opportunity to retake the SPEAK test and present a simulated lecture to be recorded and evaluated. With a SPEAK score between 51 and 52, the student may be **provisionally** certified for a GTA appointment with the following restrictions:

- The student may not be the sole instructor in the class, but must work under the supervision of a faculty member or experienced GTA.
- The student must enroll in English 100F Academic English for International Graduate Teaching Assistants and Applicants (3 credit hours) during the current term.

Questions about the procedures should be directed to Colleen Kelly, Project Director, School of Graduate Studies (816-235-5369) (kellyco@umkc.edu).