

CLEMSON ENGLISH SPEAKING PROFICIENCY TEST (CESP) AND ON-CAMPUS ESL PROGRAMS, CIS AND LEAF

Who should take the Clemson English-Speaking Proficiency (CESP) test?

Graduate students who are on, or are seeking, teaching assistantships and for whom English is not their first language are advised to take the test.

Why is the test necessary?

Academic departments must determine whether graduate students hired as teaching assistants can communicate effectively in English.

When and where is the next CESP test given?

Testing will be carried out on **December 4 and 5, 2019 and January 7, 2020** from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm, in the Class of 1941 Studio on the first floor of Daniel Hall. The test lasts about 30 minutes and each student is given an appointment for a specific time. The student should report to the Class of 1941 Studio on the first floor of Daniel Hall about 5 minutes before the appointment time.

How does a student sign up to take the CESP test?

The Graduate Coordinators in Clemson academic departments have been notified of the testing dates. Before the midterm testing dates, they will be asked to send a list of students who need to take the CESP test to Adolph Beyerlein (albrl@g.clemson.edu), Chair of the Emeritus College Language Skills Committee. Adolph Beyerlein will notify each of those students. Other students who wish to take the CESP test may also register for the test themselves by sending a request message to Dr. Adolph Beyerlein before Monday December 2, 2019. The message must include *Student Name, Clemson ID number, and email address. This information and the Student CESP test grade will not be published or otherwise shared beyond the Emeritus College Language Skills committee, the Graduate School, the Director of the Emeritus College, the Director of the English Language Programs, and the student's academic department.*

How is the testing done?

The CESP test is based on a one-on-one conversation between the student and a Clemson emeritus faculty member who assesses the student's command of English. The faculty member will ask the student a sequence of twelve questions. Performance assessment is based by how effectively the student is able to express his or her answers in English. About two-thirds of the questions focus on normal everyday conversation with friends. The remaining questions deal with topics that are common when delivering instruction to undergraduates.

How is the test graded?

The purpose of the test is to help academic departments decide whether a student can serve effectively as a teaching assistant. Student performance is graded as (i) pass, (ii) conditional pass, or (iii) fail. For students receiving a conditional pass, the academic department makes the decision on whether to use him or her as a teaching assistant.

What resources are available to help students prepare?

Two on-campus English as a Second Language (ESL) programs provide excellent preparation for taking, or re-taking, the CESP test. One is called *Conversations with International Students* (CIS), which is managed by Adolph Beyerlein for the Emeritus College. The second is called *Learning English Across Frontiers* (LEAF), which is managed and offered by Jennifer Brondell, the Director of English Language Programs in the Office of Global Engagement.

The CIS program involves a weekly person-to-person meeting between the student and a mentor who is a faculty member from the Emeritus College. The flexible CIS program is designed to meet the needs and expectations of each individual student.

The LEAF program is a group program, which promotes English conversation and cultural exchange among international as well as domestic students. In addition to providing international students an opportunity to improve their English communication skills, LEAF provides opportunities to establish friendships with American students.

International students who do not pass the CESP test should participate in one, or both, of these ESL programs before retaking the CESP test. Students may join the LEAF program by sending a request message to Jennifer Brondell (jbronde@clermson.edu) . Students may apply to participate in the CIS program by sending a request message to Adolph Beyerlein (albrl@g.clemson.edu).