

# SPEAK Test Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## What is the SPEAK test?

The SPEAK test is an oral proficiency test designed to assess the *generalized* speaking abilities of students whose first language is not English. SPEAK scores cannot and will not be used to predict a student's future academic, teaching, or professional success.

## Who is required to take the SPEAK test?

Graduate students whose first language is not English, including those who have already taken the TOEFL exam, are required to take the SPEAK test.

## What is the purpose of the SPEAK test?

The Graduate Center offers courses to nonnative speakers of English to improve their written and oral communication skills. Scores from the SPEAK test will enable the Graduate Center to make recommendations to your department/program concerning the oral communication courses that would most benefit you.

## How long is the SPEAK test?

The SPEAK test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Students will be asked to respond to 12 questions, and their answers will be digitally recorded. The recording will then be scored independently by two different raters who have undergone special training.

## When will the SPEAK test be given?

For dates and times, please contact Cortney Cain, ESOL Program Manager, by e-mail at [cecain@wm.edu](mailto:cecain@wm.edu) or by phone at (757) 221-1876.

## What do I need on the day of the test?

The SPEAK test is an oral exam; therefore no pen, pencil, or paper is required. Students need to bring a picture ID and their student ID number.

## What does the SPEAK test look like?

Several copies of the SPEAK Practice Test are on reserve at Swem Library. They are filed under "Graduate Center" and the instructor's name, "Cain."

## How do I schedule my session?

Contact Cortney Cain, ESOL Program Manager, by e-mail at [cecain@wm.edu](mailto:cecain@wm.edu) or by phone at (757) 221-1876.