

## TOEP Orientation

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/toep.php>

### Introduction

- Purpose of TOEP
- Differences between TOEP, SPEAK and TOEFL iBT
- Eligibility
- TOEP Scores (passing = 5-6; non-passing = 1-4)
- Criteria for passing
- UCI Policy on Academic Honesty

### Explanation of procedures \*\* See page 2 for TOEP procedures

- Arrival and prep time
- Interview panel and digital recording
- Scores and feedback on delivery, pronunciation and grammar

### Presentation of TOEP format \*\* See page 3 for TOEP test booklet instruction page

- Informal questions (3-4 minutes; untimed)
- Teaching situation (2 minutes)
- Graph (2 minutes)
- Definitions (3 minutes)
- Lecture (3-4 minutes)
- Follow-up questions on lecture (2 minutes)

### Discussion of factors that affect scores

- Comprehensibility
  - Pronunciation (dictionary with pronunciation: <http://m-w.com>)
  - Intonation, rhythm and word stress
  - Speed and loudness
  - Grammar
- Posture and attitude; use of the board and eye contact
- Ability to understand questions
- Ability to talk to the panel not read from the test booklet or give canned responses

### Suggestions for test preparation and performance

- Ways to prepare – SPEAK ENGLISH; listen to feedback tapes from your speaking and listening class instructors; listen to American music and sing along to get rhythm; go to the language lab in HH 269; practice academic vocabulary with *American Speechsounds for Academics*; use any computer to record yourself for 1-minute segments and LISTEN to figure out how you could have sounded better; listen to ESL instructor feedback tapes; check pronunciation of key terms in your field at [oaadonline.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://oaadonline.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com) or [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com);
  - Dealing with test anxiety
  - Things to remember before and during the test
- ❖ Introduction to ESL classes – ACENG 23A (Basic Pronunciation), 23B (Intermediate Conversation) and 23C (Advanced Communication); ACENG 28 Grammar; ACENG 24 (ITA Workshop, Spring only) - you MUST take a class if you get 2 or 3 on TOEP
- ❖ SPEAK – August and week 4 in Fall, Winter, Spring Quarters; TOEP – September, December, and June

## The Test of Oral English Proficiency (TOEP)

### Procedures

- 20 minutes before your scheduled test time, you should report to the AE/ESL room in Humanities Instructional Building, room 315.
- You must bring a picture ID. DO NOT bring a purse or backpack with you; you will have to leave it in the hall; you may not take cell phones into the test room!
- You will check registration information and sign a consent and confidentiality form.
- You will receive a test booklet with the graph and lecture notes for your test; you will choose 2 (out of 3 random) terms in your field to define.
- You then have 17 minutes to prepare your presentations (definitions, graph, and lecture); you MAY NOT use notes or a dictionary, write on the test booklet or confer with anyone.
- You will be escorted to the test room, taking your test booklet with you to refer to during the test; the student assistant will write your 2 terms on the board.
- When your interview begins, the 3 panelists will introduce themselves (one faculty member not in your department, one ESL instructor, one undergraduate student).
- A different panelist will read the introduction to each of the sections (see page 3).  
The test lasts about 20 minutes.
- Panelists will take notes and write scores as you speak – do not let that distract you.
- Your test will be digitally recorded so that the director can listen to it if there is a disagreement in scores; you will not be allowed to listen to your test afterwards.
- You may NOT go back into the prep room after your test since other students will be preparing for their exams.
- **YOU MAY NOT DISCUSS CONTENTS OF A TEST AFTER IT IS OVER AS THIS VIOLATES UCI POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY AND WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**
- Test scores will be submitted to Graduate Studies within one week; Graduate Studies will notify your department of your eligibility to be a TA.
- You will receive an email message with your score within one week; you will receive your ESL feedback within one month by email.
  
- Academic English/ESL homepage: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/>
- Grad student webpage: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/graduate/index.php>

**Study this page carefully as it is the same as the instruction sheet in the test booklet that you will receive on your test day. A member of the panel will read the instructions for each part.**

---

**TOEP**  
**Test of Oral English Proficiency**  
**University of California, Irvine**

---

**Part I. Informal Questions**

**Directions:** In this part of the test, we will ask you some general questions. (untimed)

**Part II. Teaching Situation**

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will be asked to imagine that you are a teaching assistant for an introductory course in your program. You will have two minutes to explain the response you would give to a specific problem or situation. (2 minutes)

**Part III. Graph**

**Directions:** In this part of the test you will explain and interpret the graph in your test booklet. A good presentation should include more than just a simple list of the data. Take a few seconds to refresh your memory before you begin. (2 minutes)

**Part IV. Definitions**

**Directions:** In this part of the test you will define the two terms in your field that you have chosen. In order to receive a good score on this part of the test, you must discuss the terms in some depth. You will have one-and-a-half minutes to define each term and explain its importance to your field. (3 minutes)

**Part V. Lecture**

**Directions:** You will use the outline in the test booklet as the basis for your lecture. It is provided as a guide; you are not expected to cover all of the concepts in the outline. Choose any part that you can present clearly in 3-4 minutes. You will receive a lower score if you only read the information on the outline. Feel free to use the board and to add explanations or examples that will help the panel understand your presentation. We will signal you when you have one minute left. You may now take a minute to gather your ideas before you begin. (3-4 minutes after 1 minute to look over the outline to refresh your memory)

**Part VI. Lecture Questions**

**Directions:** Now that you are finished with your lecture, we would like to ask you a few questions. You have one minute to answer each one. (2 minutes)