



MITAA Information for ITAs

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

English Language Academy

Spring 2024

MITAA

Milwaukee

International

Teaching

Assistant

Assessment

Acronyms

- **ITA** - International Teaching Assistant
- **ELA** - English Language Academy
- **EAP** - English for Academic Purposes courses

Why does the MITAA exist?

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System established policy 20-17 in December 1991 concerning the selection, training, and evaluation of teaching assistants. Section 1.B states: “Non-native English speakers must be required to demonstrate proficiency in spoken English before they are assigned classroom duties as teaching assistants.”

The English Language Academy (ELA) established the MITAA as the tool for assessing spoken English proficiency of international teaching assistants.

The assessment is administered by instructors in the English Language Academy.



Who needs to take an assessment?

MITAA is a requirement for some international teaching assistants who are non-native speakers of English and who will be assigned classroom duties as part of a graduate teaching assistantship.

Not all prospective International Teaching Assistants must take the MITAA.

Prospective ITAs **do not** have to take the assessment if they have a recent (within the last 2 years) standardized test score:

- 24 or better on the Speaking section of the internet-Based TOEFL (iBT) or
- 7.0 or better on the Speaking section of the IELTS
- 185 or better on the Speaking section of the Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) or the Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)
- 125 or better on the Conversation **and** Production sections of the Duolingo English Test

Please email the [English Language Academy](#) to determine if you are required to take the MITAA.

What to expect for the MITAA

Before your MITAA:

Prepare a 3 to 4-minute presentation (without the aid of a PowerPoint/PPT or handout) in your field geared towards a first-year or second-year level class (a topic of your choice). A whiteboard, markers, and eraser will be provided, which we strongly encourage the presenters to use.

Note: You will not be able to use any electronic devices for the presentation.

The MITAA lasts between 20 and 30 minutes.

The assessment begins with a short (1-2 minutes) introductory conversation (e.g. warmup questions) on personal, academic, or professional topics. These questions are designed as a warmup prior to the test

The assessment consists of three components:

1. First, there is a role play scenario, lasting about 1 minute. These scenarios simulate a conversation with a student during office hours. The scenario/topic will be provided on the day of your exam. These scenarios will help us assess your speaking, listening, conversation, and interaction skills.
2. Next is your presentation of approximately 3-4 minutes on a self-selected topic related to the field of study and suitable for first- or second-year undergraduate students
3. To end, there is a question-and-answer period of about 2-3 minutes following the presentation



Department Representative

If you do not already have a **contact** person in your program, please reach out to your department's graduate representative.

[Graduate School Representative List](#)

How is the MITAA assessed?



The MITAA is conducted by a panel of three evaluators: one department representative and two ELA representatives.



You **must** have a department representative attend your MITAA. The department representative needs to be a content specialist and/or faculty member who teaches in your department.



You may not take the MITAA exam on your own. You must have permission from your department to register for the MITAA.

Assessment Criteria: Summary of Requirements

To Pass with no additional restrictions both scoring benchmarks must be met:

- The ITA needs an average of 15 by all raters
- Must achieve a minimum of 3 from each rater in the following categories
 - Overall language ability
 - Pronunciation
 - Interaction with committee to pass.

If they do not achieve an average of 15 and/or does not meet the minimum benchmarks in the specified categories, the overall score combined from all 3 raters may determine additional restrictions

- 45-60: **No restrictions** (no additional coursework needed)
- 35-44: **Provisional pass** - required to take EAP 435 concurrent with classroom teaching
- 34 or below: **Required to take EAP 435** before beginning classroom teaching.

Assessment Criteria Category Breakdown

Scoring is 1-5 for each category. A minimum of 3 is required in 3 specified categories and an average of 15 from each rater is required to pass without restrictions.

Overall Language Ability

(a score of 3 in this category is required)

- vocabulary (word choice & complexity)
- grammar
- fluency

Pronunciation

(a score of 3 in this category is required)

- Stress and intonation patterns

Interaction with committee

(a score of 3 in this category is required)

- Able to understand and interact with the committee as demonstrated by response to presentation follow-up questions and role play scenarios
- Basic listening ability
- Response to and handling of questions

Organization, Development, and Content

- Main ideas clear
- ideas logically organized
- ideas supported with details and examples
- ideas paraphrased, repeated, and reinforced
- Cohesiveness

Presentation delivery

- Good Volume, Rate of Speech, Eye Contact, Use of Visual Aids (non-electronic), Non-verbal communication
- Confidence in material and skills



Note: After taking the required EAP coursework, the student must sign up for an Exit MITAA to determine whether they have demonstrated marked improvement.



Students that need an Exit MITAA will be emailed near the end of the semester about registration.

To start the MITAA process, please complete the following steps:

1. Contact your department to ask if you are required to take the MITAA.
2. Identify your department representative. Make sure the department representative is a content specialist, such as a faculty member who teaches courses. If you do not know a representative in your department, please contact your department directly. **Do not contact the English Language Academy for this information.**
3. Complete the [MITAA Registration Form](#)
4. Consult with your department representative on which time and date best suits both of your schedules.
5. Once you complete the MITAA Registration Form and you or your department representative has signed up for an available time slot, you will receive a confirmation email from The English Language Academy.
6. Appear for your MITAA on the date and time selected. Please do not be late. If you believe you will be late or if you need to reschedule, please email the [English Language Academy](#) as soon as possible.

ELA contact Information

- [MITAA Website Link](#)
- The coordinator for MITAA on our teaching staff rotates. Please email the ELA Email -

EL-ACADEMY@UWM.EDU

