

International TA (ITA) Language Certification Scoring Guide

required for all nonnative English speakers

Language certification is in accordance with Carnegie Mellon policy and the PA certification requirement. Final scores are based on pronunciation, grammar, fluency, listening, discourse and strategic competency. Students receive feedback on teaching skills and cultural understanding, but these skills do not determine final score.

SCORE*	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	JOB TYPE PERMITTED
PASS	Strong	All TA assignments (<i>undergraduate and graduate</i>) including lectures, recitations, labs and studios; can also serve as sole instructor for a course.
RESTRICTED I	Adequate	TA assignments (<i>undergraduate and graduate</i>) for recitations, labs, office hours and studios.
RESTRICTED II	Limited	<p>Only the TA assignments below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>One-on-one sessions</u>: e.g., office hours or tutoring, instructor assistant for labs or studios (if supervised by an instructor present in the lab or studio, and not responsible for safety instructions or for giving presentations), • <u>Grader</u>: meeting with students to explain and discuss grades, answer questions.
NOT READY	Weak	<p>Assignments that do not require communication with students.</p> <p>Note: on-going language support strongly recommended; language deficiencies may affect success in academic work; may need several semesters or years of intensive language work to get to next category.</p>

*Over the past ten years, the % of ITAs reaching each category: Pass = 47 %, Restricted I = 16 %, Restricted II = 28 %, Not Ready = 9 %

The ITA test assesses **spoken** language but not a TA's ability to communicate effectively in writing: e.g. grading (lab reports, journal entries, essays), responding to discussion boards, writing test questions, etc.