

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY POLICY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL¹

In accordance with House Bill 638, enacted by the 70th Legislature, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi affirms that all courses will be taught in the English language. Excluded from this requirement are foreign language courses designed to be taught in a foreign language or similar types of courses such as bilingual education courses taught in more than one language. House Bill 638 requires that each public institution of higher education in Texas establish a program of assessment and assistance for faculty and teaching personnel whose primary language is not English.

The following procedures are designed to comply with that law:

IDENTIFICATION

All faculty members who can demonstrate (on the basis of country of origin, academic training, length of residence in an English-speaking country, or other credible evidence) that their primary language is English are excluded from the requirements of HB 638. The four academic deans are responsible for identifying to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs instructional personnel whose primary language is not English. Such faculty will be required to take the SPEAK assessment instrument.

TESTING

All instructional personnel who require oral English proficiency testing will take the SPEAK test, an institutional version of the Test of Spoken English. The costs for this assessment instrument will be paid for by the University. If a score of 220 or higher is achieved, the individual's spoken English skills will be considered adequate for instruction. If the score is below 220, the individual will be required to participate in an English language assistance program.

ASSISTANCE

All instructional personnel who are required to undergo English language assistance will have the option of employing a private tutor or of entering the Program for Speech/Language Testing and Therapy for Non-Native-Born Instructors at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. In either case, the individual faculty member is required to pay for the assistance course or program. Following successful completion of the program, the faculty member must score 220 or higher on the SPEAK in order to continue in an instructional position at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. A faculty member will be given one year in which to demonstrate oral English proficiency.

¹ This section includes excerpts from rule 2.2.1.3, enacted September 7, 1990.