Understanding the ITA Program & ITA Support Courses

The ITA Program offers the following ITA support courses:

**AAE 451 – Oral Communication for ITAs**
This course is designed for ITAs who have not yet passed the MSU Speaking Test and who would benefit from additional oral language instruction, with special emphasis on the development of smooth, fluent speech and the pronunciation of English vowels, consonants, and other global features of pronunciation.

**AAE 451 – Language of the American Classroom for ITAs**
This course is designed for those ITAs who have not yet passed the MSU Speaking Test and who would benefit from additional practice in the specific language of classroom instruction.

**AAE 452 - Support for In-Service ITA Teaching**
This seminar-style course is designed for ITAs who have already met the university English proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants but who seek additional language and pedagogy support concurrent with their teaching assignment.

In addition, students enrolled in AAE 451 or 452 receive individualized pronunciation tutoring outside of class and benefit from regular interactions and organized learning activities with undergraduate classroom assistants.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

A graduate student in my department took the MSU Speaking Test but did not meet the university oral English proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants. Now what?
- Has the student received a score of 40 or 45 on the MSU Speaking Test?
- Is the student a candidate for an international teaching assistantship?

If yes to both questions, the student is eligible to take an ITA support course. Students will take either AAE 451 or 452, and will be advised by an ITA Program Coordinator as to which course best suits their skills and needs.
- Read more about AAE 451 and 452 at [https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/](https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/)
- Students should initiate a course request online through the MSU Speaking Test System at [https://login.msu.edu/?App=ELC-SPEAK](https://login.msu.edu/?App=ELC-SPEAK)
- Students will be contacted by the ITA Program Coordinator(s) with further instructions for scheduling an ITA advising appointment.
- Once students attend an ITA advising appointment, they will be contacted with a placement recommendation and information about registering for the course.

A graduate student in my department already took AAE 451 but has not yet met the university oral English proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants. Now what?
- Is the student interested in taking an additional ITA support course?

If yes, the student is eligible to take AAE 452.
- Read about AAE 452 at [https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/aae-452/](https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/aae-452/)
- Students should initiate a course request online through the MSU Speaking Test System.
- Students will be contacted by the ITA Program Coordinator(s) with further instructions for registering for the course.

If no, the student may choose to retest at a later date.
- For more information about oral proficiency testing for ITAs at MSU, visit the ELC Testing Office at [https://elc.msu.edu/tests/msu-speaking-test/](https://elc.msu.edu/tests/msu-speaking-test/).

A graduate student in my department already took AAE 452 but has not yet met the university oral English proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants. Now what?

The student may choose to pursue language improvement independently* and/or retest again at a later date.

- For more information about oral proficiency testing for ITAs at MSU, visit the ELC Testing Office at [https://elc.msu.edu/tests/](https://elc.msu.edu/tests/).

*If the student has not already completed AAE 451, in some situations, it may be deemed appropriate for him/her to take that course. Please contact the ITA Program to determine whether this is a suitable option.

A graduate student in my department has already met the university oral English proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants, but is seeking additional support and professional development. Now what?

- Has the student met the university oral language proficiency requirement for international teaching assistants by receiving a score of 50 or higher on the MSU Speaking Test or the ITA Oral Interaction (ITAOI)?
- Will the student be teaching an undergraduate course?

If yes to both questions, the student is eligible to take AAE 453.
- Read more about AAE 453 at [https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/aae-453/](https://elc.msu.edu/programs/ita/ita-course-offerings/aae-453/)
- Students should initiate a course request online through the online MSU Speaking Test System.
- Students will be contacted by the ITA Program Coordinator(s) with further instructions for registering for the course.

If no, but the student has been granted a conditional waiver upon appeal and will be involved in classroom teaching, please contact the ITA Program for discussion of eligibility for AAE 453.

**Additional Questions about the ITA Program?**

Contact the ITA Program Coordinators, Alissa Cohen or Laura Ramm, at ITAprogram@elc.msu.edu.