

Fall 2023 ITA SUPPORT COURSES

The following ITA support courses are designed for students who have a score of 40 or 45 on the MSU Speaking Test and who seek additional language practice and support in preparation for assuming TA duties:

AAE 451

Oral Communication for ITAs

TThF 3:00-4:20

This course focuses on improving oral language skills, with special emphasis on conveying ideas and information with smooth, fluent, comprehensible speech. The course addresses the pronunciation of English vowels, consonants, and global features of pronunciation such as stress, rhythm, intonation, pausing, and phrasing, all of which contribute to effective communication.

AAE 452

Language of the American Classroom

TThF 12:40-2:00

This course focuses on understanding the cultural components of the American university classroom as well as the grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation features of English necessary to effectively perform teaching tasks such as defining terms, explaining graphics, giving instructions, making announcements, clarifying, correcting, etc. Students practice a variety of presentation skills and classroom interaction strategies that will enable effective and culturally-appropriate classroom communication.

To register for a Spring ITA support course, make a course request through the online [MSU Speaking Test System](#).

For more information about AAE 451, 452, and 453, please visit the [ITA Program Course Offerings](#) page.

Already met the university language requirement for TAs?

Students who have achieved a score of 50 or higher on the MSU Speaking Test or met the university oral proficiency requirement for TAs in another way may be interested in AAE 453, a seminar-style course designed to support international graduate teaching assistants in their first few semesters of teaching.

AAE 453

Support for In-Service Teaching Day/Time TBD*

Students in this seminar-style course discuss topics such as the language of classroom management, fielding questions, handling student difficulties, etc. Students bring their own experiences of teaching in English at MSU to group discussions where we explore together how language may be facilitating or hindering the learning environment they seek to establish for their students.

*AAE 453 meets once per week at a time to be determined based on student and instructor availability.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Alissa Cohen, ITA Program Coordinator cohenal@msu.edu

