

## **Policy on English Language Proficiency for Master of Architecture, Master of Science and Ph.D Students**

Approved, Department of Architecture Executive Committee on September 16, 2013

### **Purpose:**

This policy is meant to provide some assurance that all Department of Architecture graduate students have a solid, basic command of the English language. It applies to all students in the Department's Master of Architecture, Master of Science, and Ph.D. programs.

### **Rationale:**

It is a vital necessity for all Texas A&M graduate students to have a strong command of the English language, in each of the language skills areas of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Thus, it is the policy of the Department of Architecture that all students in its Master of Architecture, Master of Science or Ph.D. Programs must have *achieved English Proficiency Verification* before admission, and *English Proficiency Certification* before enrolling for their second semester of study. Further, it is Department policy that English Proficiency Certification is required, not only, before a student can hold any teaching position, but any assistantship sponsored by the department.

### **Definition of Terms:**

English Proficiency Verification and Certification shall be defined by the University on its website <http://eli.tamu.edu>. At the time of this writing, the qualifications were as follows:

#### *English Proficiency Verification*

- TOEFL score of at least 550 paper-based (213 computer based, 80 on iBT)
- or GRE Verbal score of at least 400
- or GMAT Verbal score of at least 22

#### *English Proficiency Certification*

- Score at least 80 on four sections (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) of the English Language Proficiency Examination (ELPE)
- or Obtain grade of A or B in English Language Institute (ELI) courses at the 300 level or higher
- or Request alternative certification by the Office of Graduate Students

Graduate students who have completed an equivalent training program at an institution other than Texas A&M may request English Proficiency Verification or Certification. Verification or certification on this basis is requested through the departmental graduate advisor. The student should provide the advisor with documentation to support verification or certification. If the department concurs with the request, the advisor will submit a letter recommending and requesting verification or certification (with documentation attached) to the Office of Graduate Studies. The Office of Graduate Studies will determine on a case-by-case basis whether verification or certification is granted.

### **Policy Implementation**

*English Proficiency Verification* is administered by the International Admissions Office at the time of the student's application. The admissions committees will not normally admit a student who has not already achieved *Verification*. If, due to extenuating circumstances, admission is made without *Verification*, the admission will be provisional upon *Verification* being achieved before the student enrolls in first semester program coursework.

*English Proficiency Certification* will normally be accomplished by taking the ELP Examination before enrolling for the first semester of study. If the student fails to achieve grades of 80 on each of the listening, reading, speaking, and writing sections of the examination, the student may elect to enroll in a 300 level ELI course, or to prepare on their own and retake the ELPE at the end of the first term of study.

Students failing to achieve *Certification* within the first regular semester of study will be placed on probation. Students failing to achieve *Certification* within the first two regular semesters of study will be dropped from their respective programs.

ALL students must be ELP (English Language Proficiency) certified before applying for or receiving a scholarship offer.