The English Language Center (ELC) conducts English language testing for incoming international students. This testing is mandatory for undergraduate conditionally admitted students. The testing takes about three hours.

From the testing, four scores are derived: global, reading/grammar, listening, and writing. Based on these scores, conditionally admitted students may be (1) cleared for full-time academic studies, (2) required to take English as a second language classes only, or (3) assigned a hybrid schedule of both academic and ESL classes. At the end of each academic session, all students are retested, and conditionally admitted students’ schedules are adjusted according to their improvement.

The Office of New Student Orientation automatically assigns conditionally admitted students a test day and time. However, any department may refer students for testing. Students must come on time on designated test days with a completed referral form in hand. Students without referral forms will not be tested. Referral forms and a schedule of test dates are available to departments by request through the ELC. There is a test fee of $50.

The ELC also offers a variety of language support courses for students who need assistance. Advisors and departments are encouraged to contact the ELC with any questions regarding testing or language support for international students.

For further information about the English Language Center, visit the ELC Web site at www.northeastern.edu/cps/elc or contact the ELC office, 206 Ell Hall, 617.373.2455.