



PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the admission process, the Programs for International Partnerships cooperates with the relevant colleges and departments to conduct the English evaluation for the students applying to the programs. The evaluation usually is conducted in mid-March. The specific date/time and location will be notified to the students. (Please note, if the applicant has a qualifying TOEFL or IELTS score, the language evaluation is not necessary.)

The evaluation is a two-step process that will take a look at the applicant's reading comprehension and speaking/listening abilities:

- 1) For the reading comprehension portion of the evaluation, students will be given an article from an English-language journal, magazine, or textbook, one day prior to the evaluation. The subject matter of the article may be about the student's major, current events, or popular culture, among many possible options. During the online evaluation, students will be asked a series of questions about the article that they need to answer using their own words, thoughts, and opinions. When the student answers the questions, they are expected not simply repeat what the author of the article has written, instead, UIC are more interested in what they think about the article. Perfect English grammar and vocabulary are not the most important in answering the questions. The student's ability to share their thoughts and ideas are. Students are free to use a dictionary when reading the article prior to the evaluation to help them better understand the content.
- 2) For the speaking/listening portion of the evaluation, a UIC faculty or staff member will speak with the student for 10-15 minutes. The UIC staff member will hold a conversation with the student, ask them questions about what they are studying, why they want to go to UIC, and reading comprehension questions (as mentioned above), among many other possibilities. It is important for students not to over-prepare for this portion of the evaluation. While it is ok for the students to plan their thoughts, the UIC staff member does not want to hear memorized, prepared statements. If students speak in memorized statements, it is too easy to make a mistake or they may not really give the answer the evaluator is looking for. It is important to remember that the UIC staff member is not looking for perfect grammar and pronunciation. Instead, we are more interested in the student's ability to communicate, share ideas, and give their own opinions. At UIC, students are expected to participate in the classroom. It is OK to make a mistake --- communication is more important.

Following the completion of the evaluation, UIC will prepare an evaluation report and share it with the academic department to assist in the admissions process.