

ACCENT MODIFICATION PROGRAM

A Service of the S&T Office of International Affairs

The Accent Modification Program, a service of the Missouri S&T Office of International Affairs, provides evaluation and instruction for tenured and tenure-track international faculty who want to improve their speaking and presentation skills in the classroom.

A board certified speech/language pathologist provides individualized evaluation and instruction in a 13-session program per semester. The sessions are voluntary, free and can be structured around the instructor's schedule. All course materials are also free.

The three levels of the program are:

Level 1 – Thirteen individual sessions focusing on identification and correction of intonation and stress patterns, correction of high frequency and professional words, and classroom observations.

Level 2 – Thirteen individual sessions focusing on identification and correction of specific vowel and consonant sounds, dialogue practice and classroom observations.

Level 3 – With permission from the Offices of International Affairs, additional classes are offered to individuals who have a continuing need.

The degree of improvement varies with each individual, based on his or her commitment to the program, however, the **current average rate of improvement is approximately 70 percent**. Of those who completed Level 1 of the program, 78 percent chose to continue with Level 2 classes, and seven faculty have chosen to attend three or more semesters.

Fifty-one participants have gone through the program since its inception in 2006, including instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, full professors and distinguished professors. Data collected from the first 10 participants revealed that **overall student satisfaction ratings increased from an average of 2.3 (out of 4.0) to 2.9** after the completion of two semesters of the class.

“This course has been quite helpful to me ... I am much more comfortable in pronouncing many words properly. Course materials are well-organized and clearly presented; they are all helpful materials that can be readily applied in our daily lives... I would have no hesitation in recommending this program to all foreign nationals who have to stand in front of students lecturing every day.” – **Jerry Tien, Ph.D., P.E., associate professor, Mining & Nuclear Engineering**

“In my view, the Accent Modification Program provides foreign-born faculty with critical and timely support. I took the accent modification course for two semesters and benefited greatly from it. The program helped me improve my oral English communication significantly. It was one of the major reasons for me to receive several campus teaching awards.” – **Xiaoping Du, Ph.D., associate professor, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering**

For more information, contact Vicki Hopgood, MA-CCC, speech/language therapist, at hopgoodv@mst.edu.