

Thesis Title A Survey of Academic English Language
 Needs of Graduate Students at the
 Faculty of Science, Mahidol University .

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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to investigate graduate students' needs and problems in the academic use of English, their wants and their subject-specific instructors' expectations concerning the prospective English program for graduate students at the Faculty of Science, Mahidol University. The procedure for collecting the data involved administering questionnaires to graduate students and instructors. One hundred and fifty-four students and seventy-one instructors participated in the present study.

The findings indicate widespread use of English in many academic settings. In extent of use, reading ranked first and next came writing and listening, with speaking at the bottom of the list. In general, the productive skills, speaking and writing, were

considered the worst skills of students. With regard to wants and expectations, students usually preferred the aural-oral skills (listening and/or speaking) whereas their instructors demanded skills and activities which were more likely to be relevant to the needs in the target situation. Among the three main disciplines (Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Applied Linguistics), there are some clear distinctions: Life Science students had to use English in a somewhat wider range of activities than those in the other disciplines; Applied Linguistics students were considerably more proficient in English than those in the other disciplines. This study concludes with implications for development of several prospective English courses in response to the demands of each particular situation.