

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

ORAL PROFICIENCY INTERVIEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

During their final semester before graduation, all French and Spanish majors and double majors are required to do an oral proficiency interview (OPI) with a certified faculty tester. This test constitutes an assessment device only. A weak performance will not prevent a student from graduating.

It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the OPI in a timely manner. OPI appointments must be made through the Modern Languages Administrative Assistant, Dana Frase (dfrase@uakron.edu ; 330-972-7487), at the departmental main office in Olin 304.

NOTE: Students in the French or Spanish teaching licensure program in the College of Education also are required to do an OPI during the semester before they plan to do their practice teaching. A rating of Advanced Low must be achieved in order to undertake practice teaching.

For its graduating majors and graduate students, for non-native Spanish speaking applicants to the Masters Program in Spanish and applicants or new admits to the College of Education Master's program in teaching French or Spanish, and for undergraduate and graduate foreign language practice teaching candidates, the Department of Modern Languages provides free of charge an OPI and rating administered by an ACTFL certified departmental tester. Students who fail to achieve a specific required rating, such as for the purpose of undertaking practice teaching for the teaching licensure program, or those who otherwise wish a second rating will have the privilege of being administered another OPI by a departmental tester only after having made a significant effort to improve their oral proficiency through engaging in a minimum of one month of departmentally approved study abroad or the equivalent. The student must submit in advance to the department chair a letter requesting approval of the study plan accompanied by documentation. Verification of satisfactory completion of the proposed study must be provided before a second departmental OPI will be granted. In all instances, the option also is available for any student to arrange on his/her own for a paid OPI directly through ACTFL – www.languagetesting.com

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL ACTFL CERTIFICATE: For students requiring (teaching licensure candidates) or desiring an official ACTFL OPI rating certificate based on a second rating done by a certified external examiner, the following policy and procedures apply:

- a. The department will provide two tapes: One for the original recording that will be sent to ACTFL, and one for the department to keep on file.
- b. If the student desires a personal copy of the recorded interview, he/she must provide an additional tape.
- c. The student must provide the department with a photocopy of a picture ID.
- d. The student will be assessed a \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of the tapes, processing and mailing. The fee must be paid in the form of a personal check or money order made out to "The University of Akron." The check must be delivered to the departmental administrative assistant. **NO CASH.**
- e. The student also must provide a personal check or money order in the amount of \$30.00 made out to LTI (the ACTFL testing office).
- f. The department will provide the padded envelope for mailing the tape and necessary forms to ACTFL.
- g. The Department will mail the sample to ACTFL, together with the required forms, paying the postage.