



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GUIDELINES FOR DEMONSTRATING SECOND-LANGUAGE (L2) PROFICIENCY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

To graduate with a BA degree, University of Oregon students need to demonstrate competency in one language other than English (LOTE). As specified in the UO catalog, students may meet this graduation requirement for the BA degree through coursework or in other ways, with or without UO credits, as described below.

### 1. MEET BA L2 REQUIREMENT, WITH UO CREDIT

#### 1.1 Coursework

For this option, students must pass the final course of the intermediate level, as defined in each language program, with a C- or higher (graded) or Pass. In general, this level corresponds to the sixth term of study (e.g., FREN 203, CHN 203, SPAN 203 or 228.) Students receive the credit associated with the course(s) passed.

Old English Option: Students may fulfill the UO second-language requirement by passing two years of courses in Old English through the Department of English. Students complete ENG 428 OE I (Old English grammar), and then two Old English reading courses—ENG 429 Old English II and 430 Old English III—which are each taken twice, over two successive years. Because 429 and 430 must be repeated, the readings studied in ENG 429 and ENG 430 vary every other year. Taking these two courses twice means that students will complete five different courses, which together will satisfy the L2 requirement. Once these five courses have been passed successfully, students should contact the [CAS Divisional Dean for Humanities](#), who will certify the BA second language requirement as completed.

#### 1.2 Proficiency by exam

If you have acquired proficiency in a LOTE through family or community, living abroad, self study, or other extracurricular means, you are eligible to meet the BA L2 requirement and receive credit via the CLEP test.

Exams prepared by the College Level Exam Program (CLEP) of the College Board, a national organization, can provide placement information and can also confer UO credit. They are available for French, German, and Spanish. A student who scores at the equivalent of completion of the final course of the second year of language study on a CLEP proficiency exam would earn 12 credits, and also complete the University of Oregon BA requirement.

Students should register for the test on the University of Oregon Testing Center website: <http://testing.uoregon.edu>. The Testing Center has CLEP appointments available on a regular basis throughout the year. Students with questions can contact the Testing Center by phone at 541-346-3230, by email at [testing@uoregon.edu](mailto:testing@uoregon.edu), or in person at 1590 East 13th Avenue, room 270, Eugene, OR 97403. The student is responsible for all costs associated with the exam and its administration. Information about the costs are available at the Testing Center website and the CLEP website (<https://clep.collegeboard.org>).

If you are interested in receiving CLEP credit for a language other than French, German, and Spanish, [please contact the Divisional Dean for Humanities](#) in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## 2. MEET BA L2 REQUIREMENT, WITH NO UO CREDIT

The following options meet the UO BA L2 requirement but offer no UO credits.

### 2.1 STAMP

The STAMP test (Avant Assessment) is available for Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (simplified and full form), Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Information for taking the STAMP can be found at <https://avantassessment.com/stamp4s>. Each UO language program specifies the level required to meet the BA requirement as indicated in the tables below. Required proficiency is listed in the table below by language and skill level. An external STAMP score cannot be more than one year old at the time the student submits it to satisfy the BA requirement.

Required Proficiency Level for BA

| Language  | Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking |
|---|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish                      | 6       | 5       | 6         | 5        |
| Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian | 4       | 4       | 5         | 5        |

For other languages, learners should take an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI, see below) or contact Avant Assessment to see if a test is available in their preferred language.

### 2.2 AAPPL

The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) is offered by the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL). The AAPPL exam is not offered at the UO. It is most often administered in high school but can also be used as a placement test for incoming university students. The following levels in the four skill areas satisfy the BA L2 requirement (I = Intermediate):

Required AAPPL Proficiency Levels for BA

| Language                            | Interpretive Reading | Presentational Writing | Interpersonal Speaking & Listening | Interpretive Listening |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| French, German, Portuguese, Spanish | I-5                  | I-4                    | I-4                                | I-5                    |
| Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian    | I-2                  | I-2                    | I-4                                | I-4                    |

### **2.3 OPI**

The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is also administered by ACTFL. Since the OPI only measures oral proficiency, it should be combined with other documentation that demonstrates literacy, e.g., previous coursework in reading and writing or a portfolio of past work.

OPIs can be administered in the following languages: Afrikaans, Akan-Twi, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Baluchi, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Cebuano, Chavacano, Czech, Dari, Dutch, Egyptian, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek (Modern), Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong/Mong, Hungarian, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Iraqi, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Kazakh, Kashmiri, Korean, Kurdish, Lao, Levantine, Malay, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marshallese, Nepali, Norwegian, Pashto, Persian Farsi, Polish, Portuguese Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian Croatian, Sindhi, Sinhalese, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Tausug, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Turkmen, Uighur, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Wolof, Wu, and Yoruba.

Learners are expected to meet an Intermediate-Mid level on the OPI when combined with a literacy measure. If only an OPI is available, additional documentation is required. Please [contact the Divisional Dean for Humanities](#).

For questions about the non-credit OPI, students should contact the University of Oregon Testing Center office, Room 270 University Health, Counseling, and Testing, Agate Street at 13th Avenue (<http://testing.uoregon.edu>; 541-346-3230), to order the exam and to set up a time when it can be administered. The student is responsible for all costs associated with the exam and its administration. Information about the costs involved can be found on the [ACTFL](#) website and at the UO Testing Center.

### **2.4 American Sign Language**

Students who wish to demonstrate proficiency may present results from one of two nationally recognized exams, the ASL Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) or the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI). The ASLPI generally is administered at universities that have deaf education programs. A score of 3 Plus or above on the ASLPI or Intermediate Plus or above on the SCPI will satisfy the BA L2 requirement.

Further information is available on the SCPI website: <http://www.rit.edu/~wjnncd/scpi/main.html>. Students may also contact appropriate faculty in Special Education in the College of Education to inquire if local evaluation is available.

### **2.5 High-School equivalency**

A student may fulfill the BA second language requirement if they have graduated from a high school that is not in the United States where the language of instruction is not English. An official copy of the high-school transcript should be sent to the Office of the Registrar as evidence of formal training in the language. Such students must also complete WR 121 and either WR 122 or 123.

### **2.6 Other considerations**

In rare cases, students may be able to use their language ability to fulfill the BA language requirement by meeting with an appropriate faculty member or a faculty-approved individual who is able to determine if the student's proficiency is equivalent to successful completion of the BA level. Possible procedures for demonstrating proficiency, depending on a student's individual situation, include the following:

2.6.1. Students must provide detailed documentation of their efforts and abilities. Students' own statement of their language work should be supplemented by letters or documents from schools or qualified faculty. **All documents should be submitted to the Divisional Dean for Humanities in care of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1245 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.** While the nature of this documentation will differ depending on the student's situation, it could include the following:

2.6.1.1. Original transcripts from a language school that specify hours in class, materials, performance or grade, and proficiency. These should be sent directly from the language school to the [Divisional Dean for Humanities](#) (see address above)

2.6.1.2. Letters from qualified and approved faculty (from the UO or any other regionally accredited institution) who are able to specify in some detail the proficiency level of the student. This can be accomplished by discussing proficiency in conversation (including aural and oral), reading, and writing. Faculty must write a letter to the [Divisional Dean for Humanities](#) (see address above), specifying their own proficiency and how it was obtained, and describing how they determined that the student's competency is equivalent to completion of the second-year of language instruction. Faculty unfamiliar with the UO protocols may call the Divisional Dean at 541-346-3902 to discuss the student's level and to obtain guidelines for evaluation. Faculty should address their relationship to the student; letters from parents or other relatives are not considered.

#### 2.6.2 Departmental exams

Students may petition a language department to provide ad hoc assessments of proficiency, which should include the same types of evaluation and expectation for level as the assessments administered in the equivalent UO courses. For example, if FR 203 requires written essays, oral exams, and grammar tests, the departmental exam should include components that measure the same skill areas and require the same level of performance.

2.6.3. For languages that have no written form, evaluation is often difficult, especially if the language is spoken only by a small number of people. Nonetheless, it may be possible to arrange an evaluation that would satisfy the BA requirement. Students in this situation should contact the [Divisional Dean for Humanities](#), College of Arts and Sciences (541-346-3902), to determine how best to locate a qualified evaluator.

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