

College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature (LLL)
Assessment of modern languages BA program learning outcome: ORAL

The ACTFL¹ Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

Students took the OPI which measures how well a person speaks a language by comparing his/her performance with criteria described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking (Revised 1999)*. The test is a one-on-one telephonic conversation with a real person conducted entirely in the target language. It is a 20-30 minute carefully structured conversation between a trained and certified interviewer and a person whose speaking proficiency is being assessed.

OPI Levels

SUPERIOR

ADVANCED: Advanced High, Advanced Mid, Advanced Low

INTERMEDIATE: Intermediate High, Intermediate Mid, Intermediate Low

NOVICE: Novice High, Novice Mid, Novice Low

The LLL BA program minimum expectation is *Intermediate High* for students at the end of their modern language degree program.

Spring 2011 Results

41 students (half of the LLL students who graduated in spring 2011 with a BA in modern languages) took the OPI. All students received official certificates from the ACTFL which can be used as a proof of their language proficiency.

70% of the BA graduates who took the OPI reached at least the *Intermediate High* proficiency level.

See table on next page.

The College of LLL will fund OPIs for students graduating with a BA in fall 2011 and spring 2012.

¹ ACTFL is the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

OPI results for graduating foreign language majors, spring 2011

| | Participants | | | Scores | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Invited | Took OPI | Response Rate | Nov.-High | Int.-Low | Int.-Mid | Int.-High | Adv.-Low | Adv.-Mid | Adv.-High | Superior |
| Japanese | 46 | 25 | 54% | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | 1 | | | | 3 ^a | 1 | |
| | Non-heritage, substantial study abroad | | | | | 3 | 5 | 1 | | | |
| | non-heritage, non-study abroad | | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | | | | |
| Chinese | 7 | 3 | 43% | | | | 1 | | 2 | | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | 1 ^b | | 2 ^c | | |
| | non-heritage, non-study abroad | | | | | | | | | | |
| Korean Flagship | 3 | 3 | 100% | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | 1 ^d | 1 ^e | | 1 ^e |
| Korean | 2 | 1 | 50% | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Filipino | 2 | 1 | 50% | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | | | 1 ^f | |
| French | 7 | 3 | 43% | | | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | | | 2 ^g | |
| | non-heritage, non-study abroad | | | | | | 1 ^h | | | | |
| German | 3 | 1 | 33% | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | Non-heritage, substantial study abroad | | | | | | | | 1 ⁱ | | |
| Russian | 2 | 2 | 100% | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | | 1 ^j | | |
| | non-heritage, non-study abroad | | | | | | 1 ^k | | | | |
| Spanish^m | 9 | 2 | 22% | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | Heritage speaker | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | Non-heritage, substantial study abroad | | | | | | | 1 ^l | | | |
| Total: | 82 | 41 | 50% | 2 (5%) | 2 (5%) | 8 (20%) | 11 (27%) | 3 (7%) | 10 (24%) | 4 (10%) | 1 (2%) |
| 17 | Heritage speaker | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 11 | Non-heritage, substantial study abroad | | | | | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 13 | non-heritage, non-study abroad | | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | | | | |

Definitions

Heritage speaker: These are individuals with parents who are native speakers, and/or have spent some part of their childhood/adolescence in a place where the language is spoken, and/or reported speaking the target language at home. These individuals may have also participated in study abroad as well.

Non-heritage, substantial study abroad: These are individuals who are not heritage speakers as defined above, but participated in a semester or more of study abroad during their studies at UHM.

Non-heritage, non-study abroad: These are individuals who are not heritage speakers as defined above, and did not study abroad for at least a semester during their studies at UHM. (But, some participated in short-term study abroad programs.)

Notes

- a. One person also studied abroad for one academic year.
- b. Mother and father speak the language, but the language is seldom spoken at home;
9 weeks study abroad.
- c. Includes one Cantonese speaker (spent childhood in Hong Kong), and one native speaker of Hainanese (primary/secondary education in China?)
- d. Also did study abroad in Korea (8 months).
- e. Also did study abroad in Korea (1 year).
- f. Lived in the Philippines until age 12; college-level study for 2 months in the Philippines.
- g. One person lived in France until age 13; the other lived in France until age 20 and completed a baccalaureate.
- h. Studied abroad for 1 month.
- i. Studied abroad for 9 months.
- j. Lived in a Russian-speaking country until age 8.
- k. Studied abroad for 6 weeks.
- l. Studied abroad for 5 months.
- m. One fall 2010 graduate was invited, and took, an OPI.