

Modern Language Majors and Minors

According to your University records, you are coded with a teacher certification language (Spanish, French, or German) major, second major, or minor. After you have been admitted to teacher education and before you will be permitted to student teach, you must take and pass the ACTFL oral proficiency exam (OPIc recommended) and written proficiency exam. In September 2011, the ACTFL exams replaced the Praxis II World Language Exams required by the state of Wisconsin for certification to teach foreign languages. ACTFL is the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages. Their testing subsidiary is LTI - Language Testing International.

To register for the ACTFL Oral and Written Proficiency Tests, complete steps 1-5 in the order presented:

1. Go to www.registerblast.com/uwlax and pay the \$33.00 seat fee charged by Counseling and Testing to test in the Testing Center. UW-L's Counseling and Testing Center is an official testing site and will proctor the oral and written tests. The seat fee is in addition to the test fees you will pay directly to ACTFL.
2. Go to <http://www.languagetesting.com/> and register for the OPIc (to Superior) and WPT (internet). From the Language Testing International (LTI) homepage, <http://www.languagetesting.com/>, follow the prompts to register to test. You will create an account on the LTI website to register to test.
 - a. It is recommended you take the "OPIc to Superior" test instead of the "OPIc to Advanced" test. The rating range is greater with the "OPIc to Superior" test, which may be advantageous if you pursue employment in a state requiring a greater level of oral proficiency on the Oral Proficiency Interview than Wisconsin. WI requires passing at the Intermediate High level. You will have a conversation with an avatar lasting approximately 20-40 minutes. Grading/rating this portion of the exam takes 10 days to two weeks.
 - b. In addition to the OPIc, you will need to take the Written Proficiency Test (WPT). It is recommended you take the internet test (not the paper booklet test), which is scheduled for 80 minutes.
 - c. You will need to select three different test dates and times. Register to take both tests the same day, with one test followed by the other. There is no advantage to taking the tests on different days. When you select your test dates and times, select M-F dates. ACTFL testing is not available on Saturdays or Sundays. In addition, LTI is located in the Eastern Time zone, which is one hour ahead of Wisconsin (Central time zone). Select times between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Central to test. LTI will not begin a test after 2:00 eastern (1:00 Central) due to technology support availability.

3. When you register, you will need to identify a testing site and proctor. UW-L's Counseling and Testing Center is an approved proctor and testing site. Counseling and Testing submitted a blanket proctoring form to ACTFL-LTI in September 2011, so when you designate UW-L's Counseling and Testing Center as the testing site, ACTFL-LTI will associate the testing site with the designated proctor at UW-L. If you are asked to provide additional information about the proctor, use the following information: C. Criss Gilbert, Testing Coordinator & Office Manager, Counseling & Testing Center, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, 2106 Centennial Hall, 308 North 16th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, cgilbert@uwlax.edu, (608) 785-8074 (office), (608) 785-8965 (fax).

4. Contact Criss Gilbert, Testing Coordinator, 608-785-8074, to schedule the test date(s) and time(s) you provided on your applications for the oral and written proficiency tests.

5. When you arrive to test, you must provide two forms of photo identification (required by LTI). A Passport or driver's license is acceptable as the primary ID and student ID's are acceptable as a secondary ID.

If you do not test at the Intermediate High level required by the state of Wisconsin and need to retest, ACTFL requires a 90-180 day (approximately 3-6 months) waiting period before you will be permitted to test again. Please consult with the faculty in the Modern Languages department regarding the "best" time to test to ensure a passing rating at the Intermediate High level.

If you are no longer planning to certify or complete your language major or minor, please stop by 260 Morris and complete a "Change of Program" form.