

## PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN/WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER CANDIDATES

Candidates are required to achieve a high level of oral proficiency in their language prior to student teaching. The College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i – Mānoa requires a specific demonstration of proficiency as part of our national accreditation process. The required speaking levels are set by ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and vary according to language. The minimum levels required appear in the chart provided by the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board (HSTB) on their website. There are costs to the student associated with these proficiency testing(s). Because this test is required for language licensure, you may request the cost of the test to be included in your financial aid. To help you understand oral proficiency in general, please read the ACTFL World Language Test website and/or the PRAXIS Test website.

ACTFL website: [www.languagetesting.com/](http://www.languagetesting.com/)

PRAXIS website: [www.ets.org/praxis/](http://www.ets.org/praxis/)

HTSB Required PRAXIS Tests website: [bit.ly/tests-info](http://bit.ly/tests-info)

1. To comply with ACTFL/NCATE accreditation, B.Ed. candidates must be permitted to demonstrate proficiency on more than one occasion. Therefore, **either before entrance or at the latest within the first semester of study** in the foreign language licensure program, candidates should contact their particular language department on the UH campus and inquire if it is possible to take an advisory or informal Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or a Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview (SOPI). With this score, candidates and their advisors can evaluate whether oral proficiency at the required minimum is likely to be attained.

However, B.Ed. candidates MUST pass the OPI and WPT at the required level to submit a Student Teaching Application, whether or not they choose to do the ACTFL or the PRAXIS Content Knowledge test.

2. Less commonly taught languages that are not currently assessed with the ACTFL or PRAXIS Content Knowledge: Knowledge of content will have to be demonstrated via another format. In the future, if ACTFL or PRAXIS develops assessments in these languages, the required level of oral proficiency will be determined by the HTSB.

**For Hawaiian language:** please see a Pu‘uhonua/OSAS advisor for current requirements.

**PBCSE applicants:** Candidates must pass at the required level the PRAXIS Content Knowledge (if applicable) **OR** the ACTFL (if applicable) for their language to be admitted. Passing scores for these examinations are determined by the HTSB.

### **How to complete the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) for Foreign Language Candidates**

- Go to the website for Language Testing International (LTI) at: [www.languagetesting.com/](http://www.languagetesting.com/) to apply online in order to arrange for an OPI telephone interview. From this page you might also choose to take a look at the documents required by downloading them before you complete the online application. The current cost of an official OPI is \$139.00 (subject to change). Students should expect to pay for the OPI just as they pay for certification exams such as PRAXIS. You will receive an official certificate of your oral proficiency.
- The proctor for your OPI is:  
Dr. Niki Libarios  
Director of the Office of Student Academic Services  
College of Education  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
Email: [osas@hawaii.edu](mailto:osas@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: (808) 956-7915
- See information from LTI on how to select your proctor: [bit.ly/actfl-steps](http://bit.ly/actfl-steps)

### **How to complete the Written Proficiency Test (WPT) for Foreign Language Candidates**

- Go to the LTI website for taking the WPT at: [bit.ly/actfl-writing](http://bit.ly/actfl-writing) to apply online for your written test. From this page you might also choose to take a look at the documents required by downloading them before you complete the online application. The current cost of an official WPT is \$70.00. Students should expect to pay for the WPT just as they pay for certification exams such as PRAXIS. You will receive an official certificate of your results.
- You must select a Booklet Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) if you are taking your test at the College of Education. The College of Education is not equipped to offer the Internet Writing Proficiency (IWPT) option. The proctor for your WPT is:  
Dr. Niki Libarios  
Director of the Office of Student Academic Services  
College of Education  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
Email: [osas@hawaii.edu](mailto:osas@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: (808) 956-7915
- See information from LTI on how to select your proctor: [bit.ly/actfl-steps](http://bit.ly/actfl-steps)
- See WPT FAQ's: [bit.ly/actfl-faq](http://bit.ly/actfl-faq)