

**CHECKLIST FOR SPANISH MINOR: SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

G-Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED COURSES** (or prerequisites for more advanced courses). [Total: 21 credits]

\_\_\_\_\_ SPA 321 Composition and Conversation I [prereq: SPA 202]

\_\_\_\_\_ SPA 322 Composition and Conversation II [prereq: SPA 321]

\_\_\_\_\_ SPA 309 Advanced Spanish Grammar [prereq: SPA 322]

\_\_\_\_\_ SPA 335 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics [prereq: SPA 309]

\_\_\_\_\_ SPA 314 Teaching Methods [prereq: SPA 322 and one of: SPA310/ 311/ 312/ 313]

Note: It is highly recommended that SPA 314 be taken at GVSU.

\_\_\_\_\_ **two** Culture and Civilization courses: Choose from SPA 310, 311, 312 or 313 [prereq: 322]

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**OPI REQUIREMENT**

- Students seeking teaching certification in Spanish must demonstrate oral proficiency at the Advanced Low level or higher on the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) prior to their student teaching semester.
- Research has shown that study abroad for at least one semester is necessary for students to reach the Advanced Low level of proficiency (Swender, 2001).

\_\_\_\_\_ **STUDY ABROAD REQUIREMENT** [catalog year 2014 and after]

- Students starting at GVSU in Fall 2014 or after are **required** to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country for a minimum of one semester (12-15 credits in Spanish at the 300-level) in a departmentally-approved program. See [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and a Spanish advisor for more information.
- Courses taken during this semester may fulfill some of the course requirements for the minor.
- The semester abroad should take place after completion of SPA 322.
- Students who cannot meet this requirement will need to complete an alternative plan approved by the Spanish section's Study Abroad Committee.

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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COURSES**

Semester	Year	Semester	Year	Semester	Year
Courses		Courses		Courses	
Semester	Year	Semester	Year	Semester	Year
Courses		Courses		Courses	

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SPANISH EDUCATION STUDENTS

### Michigan Department of Education (2004) Standards for Foreign Language Teachers:

Teacher candidates must demonstrate a proficiency level of *advanced low* in all four skill levels. This applies to major and minors.

- Reading
  - Writing
  - Listening
  - Speaking
- } assessed on MTTC
- assessed via Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

The MTTC covers six areas: listening comprehension, writing proficiency, reading proficiency, grammar and language comparisons, pedagogy, and culture. The MTTC should not be taken until you have completed 90% of your content area course work. Because it addresses pedagogy, SPA 314, should be taken prior to taking the exam.

**“All modern language majors and minors must reach a minimum of Advanced-Low on the OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) before Student Teaching (ED430/431).”**

### What does Advanced-low proficiency look like?

Advanced-level proficiency requires that students are able to participate in most informal conversations and a variety of formal conversations on topics related to school, home, leisure activities, work, and current events. They are able to narrate and describe in the past, present, and future in paragraph length discourse (combining and linking sentences). They are also able to discuss some abstract topics and support some opinions (characteristics of the superior level).

**Study abroad:** Research has shown that study abroad for *at least one semester* is necessary if students expect to reach the Advanced Low level of oral proficiency. University foreign language majors who have not lived in a country where the language of study is a majority language tend to finish their degree with an intermediate high level of proficiency (Swender, 2001).

### What is the OPI?

The OPI was designed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). It is a recorded “interview” which is double-rated; individuals can take the OPI either on the phone or via the computer. The structure of the OPI is as follows:

- 5-minute warm-up
- “cycles” based on a variety of topics, with steadily increasing levels of difficulty
- Brief role play
- Wind down

### When should I take the OPI?

**It is highly recommended that students complete a practice OPI before signing up for the actual test.** Practice tests are administered by a department faculty member.

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We also advise that students take the OPI as soon as possible upon returning from a study abroad.

To sign up for an OPI, please visit: <https://www.gvsu.edu/ml/mpi-testing-160.htm>

For questions, please contact the MLL Department: 331-3203