

French, German, and Spanish Education Students
Proficiency in the Language of Instruction

All teacher candidates (majors and minors) must demonstrate proficiency level of **Advanced-Low** in all 4 skill areas (listening, reading, writing, speaking). Descriptions of what individuals with advanced-level proficiency can do in each skill area are available on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) website in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Among the skills of advanced-low speakers are the ability to:

- narrate and describe in major time frames.
- sustain paragraph length discourse.
- talk about a variety of topics, including work and current events.
- initiate, sustain and conclude a social interaction or a conversation involving a transactional situation with a complication.
- be understood by those unaccustomed to dealing with non-native speakers.

The MTTC is used to measure listening, reading, and writing proficiency. An Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is used to measure speaking proficiency. Advanced low proficiency in speaking must be demonstrated prior to Student Teaching (EDI 431).

The OPI lasts approximately 30 minutes and is composed of four cycles:

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

Details about the cost of the OPI and how to register are available on the [MLL website](#). It is important to note that the online application should be completed at least two weeks prior to your desired test date and that there is a 90-day waiting period to retake the OPI if advanced low is not reached.

A semester-long study abroad is required for MLL education students who began their program in Fall 2014 or later. It is generally recommended that you take the OPI as soon as possible after study abroad. Talk with a teacher education advisor in your language for further details and to schedule a practice OPI prior to studying abroad.