

CHECKLIST FOR SPANISH TEACHABLE MINOR: SECONDARY EDUCATION (21 CREDITS)

Advisor: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

G-Number: _____

Major: _____

_____ SPA 321 Composition and Conversation I [prereq: SPA 202 with a grade of C (not C-) or better]

_____ 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]

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 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).

_____ **Study abroad requirement: Spanish minors interested in teacher certification are required to study abroad for at least one semester (12-15 credits at the 300-level) in a Spanish language study abroad program.** Program must be approved prior to study abroad by a faculty advisor in Spanish and can be used to fulfill minor requirement courses. Students who are unable to complete the study abroad requirement will need to complete an alternative plan approved by the Spanish Study Abroad Committee. Please meet with a Spanish advisor as soon as possible to discuss your options or refer to www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad for more information.

- The semester abroad should take place after completion of SPA 322.

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).

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

OPIc (computerized version) - \$65

Telephone version - \$134

Advanced level check - \$90

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.

Professor Fidalgo-Eick fidalgom@gvsu.edu

Professor Vrooman vroomanm@gvsu.edu

Professor Linford linfordb@gvsu.edu

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

To sign up for an OPI contact the MLL Department: 331-8554

OPI Application: <http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/opi-testing-160.htm>