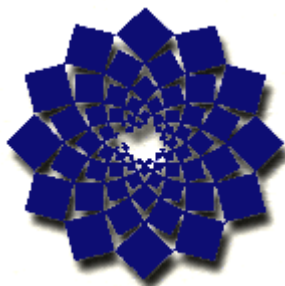


**AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF
FOREIGN LANGUAGES
(ACTFL)**



**PROGRAM STANDARDS
FOR THE PREPARATION OF
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS
(INITIAL LEVEL—Undergraduate & Graduate)
(For K-12 and Secondary Certification Programs)**

**Prepared by the Foreign Language Teacher Standards Writing Team
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**For questions about these standards and/or the program review process, contact
ACTFL at 703/894-2900.**

ACTFL Program Standards For The Preparation Of Foreign Language Teachers

I. Requirements for Programs of Foreign Language Teacher Preparation

The preparation of foreign language teachers is the joint responsibility of the faculty in foreign languages and education. In order for foreign language teacher candidates to attain the knowledge, skills, and dispositions described in the *ACTFL Program Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers*, programs of foreign language teacher preparation must demonstrate that they include the components and characteristics described below.

1. The development of candidates' foreign language proficiency in all areas of communication, with special emphasis on developing oral proficiency, in all language courses. Upper-level courses should be taught in the foreign language.
2. An ongoing assessment of candidates' oral proficiency and provision of diagnostic feedback to candidates concerning their progress in meeting required levels of proficiency.
3. Language, linguistics, culture, and literature components.
4. A methods course that deals specifically with the teaching of foreign languages, and that is taught by a qualified faculty member whose expertise is foreign language education and who is knowledgeable about current instructional approaches and issues.
5. Field experiences prior to student teaching that include experiences in foreign language classrooms.
6. Field experiences, including student teaching, that are supervised by a qualified foreign language educator who is knowledgeable about current instructional approaches and issues in the field of foreign language education.
7. Opportunities for candidates to experience technology-enhanced instruction and to use technology in their own teaching.
8. Opportunities for candidates to participate in a structured study abroad program and/or intensive immersion experience in a target language community.

II. Content and Supporting Standards

Six Content Standards at-a-Glance

Standard 1: Language, Linguistics, Comparisons

Standard 2: Cultures, Literatures, Cross-Disciplinary Concepts

Standard 3: Language Acquisition Theories and Instructional Practices

Standard 4: Integration of Standards into Curriculum and Instruction

Standard 5: Assessment of Languages and Cultures

Standard 6: Professionalism

The six content standards, their supporting standards, supporting explanations, and rubrics for each supporting standard follow. Also included with each standard is a list of sample evidence that could be used to illustrate that teacher candidates have attained the standard. These pieces of evidence would result from or be a component of the program's key assessments. For sample key assessments, see the separate document, "Preparing the ACTFL/NCATE Program Report."

STANDARD 1: Language, Linguistics, Comparisons

Standard 1.a. Demonstrating Language Proficiency. Candidates demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the target language, and they seek opportunities to strengthen their proficiency. (See the following supporting explanation and rubrics for required levels of proficiency.)

Standard 1.b. Understanding Linguistics. Candidates know the linguistic elements of the target language system, recognize the changing nature of language, and accommodate for gaps in their own knowledge of the target language system by learning on their own.

Standard 1.c. Identifying Language Comparisons. Candidates know the similarities and differences between the target language and other languages, identify the key differences in varieties of the target language, and seek opportunities to learn about varieties of the target language on their own.

Standard 1.a. Demonstrating Language Proficiency. Candidates demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the target language, and they seek opportunities to strengthen their proficiency. (See the following supporting explanation and rubrics for required levels of proficiency.)

Supporting Explanation

Candidates are able to communicate successfully in the three modes of communication — *interpersonal*, *interpretive*, *presentational* — in the target language they intend to teach. The heart of language instruction is the ability to teach students to communicate, which can only be possible if teachers themselves exemplify effective communicative skills. Undergirding effective implementation of the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* (1999) is the expectation that teachers will provide effective oral and written input in the classroom; for the Executive Summary of the standards, see <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/execsumm.pdf>.

For *interpersonal* speaking (i.e., two-way interactive communication), candidates must demonstrate a specific level of proficiency as described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking* (1999) (<http://www.actfl.org/files/public/GuidelinesSpeak.pdf>). The expected level of oral proficiency for teacher candidates is contingent on the specific target language as well as the native language. These standards assume that the native language of the majority of teacher candidates is English. According to the research done by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) — given English as the native language — it takes more time to develop a specific level of oral proficiency in certain target languages than in others; i.e., it takes more time to develop fluency in a language such as Arabic than it does in a language such as Spanish (Liskin-Gasparro, 1982). Therefore, candidates who teach languages such as French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish (Group I, II, and III languages on the FSI scale) must speak at a minimum level of Advanced-Low as defined in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking* (1999). This level is explained further in the rubrics that follow and the expanded definition appears in the speaking guidelines. Candidates who teach Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (Group IV languages on the FSI scale) must speak at a minimum level of Intermediate-High as defined in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking* (1999) and explained further in the rubrics.

All candidates, regardless of the target language they teach, must be able to *present* information, concepts, and ideas orally to an audience of listeners. They must know their audience and adjust their presentation accordingly. Candidates must be able to deliver oral presentations that may be pre-planned, but in which they speak extemporaneously, referring to notes as needed, but not reading them verbatim. They must use connected discourse that incorporates various time frames, vocabulary specific to the context of the presentation, and extralinguistic support as necessary to make the message clear to the audience (e.g., visuals). Presentations may consist of literary and cultural topics as well as topics of personal interest to the presenter.

Candidates must comprehend and interpret oral messages including face-to-face and telephone conversation, news broadcasts, narratives and descriptions in various time frames, speeches, and debates. In *interpretive* listening, the level of detail of the comprehension is contingent on the listener's familiarity with the topic of the text. All candidates, regardless of the target language they teach, should be able to identify the main idea(s) and supporting details of an oral message; infer meaning of unfamiliar

words in new contexts; infer and interpret the author's intent; identify some of the author's perspectives and some cultural perspectives; and offer a personal interpretation of the message they heard.

The expectations for interpretive reading and interpersonal and presentational writing also depend on the target languages that teacher candidates teach. The languages are described in terms of their writing system: (1) languages that use a Roman alphabet such as French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish; (2) languages that use a non-Roman alphabet such as Arabic, Hebrew, Korean, and Russian; (3) languages that use characters such as Chinese and Japanese; and (4) classical languages (Latin and Greek). Candidates who are native speakers of English and teach target languages that use the Roman alphabetic writing system are able to attain a higher level of reading and writing skill in those languages because they do not have to focus on learning a new writing system. Candidates teaching target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters have to devote more time to learning the writing systems of those languages and may not initially reach the same level of reading and writing proficiency as their counterparts in target languages that use the Roman alphabet.

In interpretive reading, candidates must comprehend and interpret printed texts including realia (e.g., signs, flyers, menus), correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, narratives and descriptions, and literary selections representing various genres. The level of detail of the comprehension is contingent on the interpreter's familiarity with the topic of the text. For target languages that use a Roman alphabet, candidates will demonstrate understanding and interpretation at a higher level of detail than would be expected of those that work with target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters.

For interpersonal writing (i.e., two-way written interactive communication) and presentational writing (i.e., one-way written communication to an audience of readers), candidates must demonstrate a specific level of proficiency as described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Writing (2001)* (<http://www.actfl.org/files/public/writingguidelines.pdf>). Interpersonal and presentational writing refer to both spontaneous and reflective writing: (1) spontaneous writing does not incorporate sufficient time for revision, rewriting, or clarification and elaboration, and (2) reflective writing allows the writer the time to better plan and organize the written product through a writing process that includes rereading, revising, and rewriting. Candidates who teach target languages with a Roman alphabetic writing system, including the classical languages, must demonstrate a minimum writing proficiency level of Advanced-Low, while candidates who teach target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters must demonstrate a minimum writing proficiency level of Intermediate-High, as described in the rubric below.

Since the primary goal of teachers of classical languages lies in the interpretation of written texts, no specific speaking and writing proficiency levels are established for candidates who teach these languages. However, teachers of classical languages should be able to ask simple comprehension questions in the target language based on the texts being read. They should also have the ability to write simple sentences in the target language. Candidates teaching classical languages must be able to comprehend and

interpret original written works in these languages. Their ability to interpret texts is based on the type of text and the degree to which they are familiar with the content of the text.

All candidates seek opportunities to develop and strengthen their target language proficiency outside of the classroom. For example, they interact with target language speakers in the community, access target language materials via technology, and take advantage of study abroad/immersion opportunities.

Notes:

1. All rubrics are additive. “Meets Standard” assumes that candidates have also met the criteria under “Approaches Standard.” “Exceeds Standard” assumes that candidates have also met the criteria under both “Approaches Standard” and “Meets Standard.”
2. The NCATE Unit standards use the following terms in their rubrics to describe the ranges of performance: Unacceptable, Acceptable, Target. In the ACTFL rubrics, “Approaches Standard”= Unacceptable, “Meets Standard”=Acceptable, and “Exceeds Standard”=Target.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Interpersonal Communication: Speaking	For French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, candidates speak at the Intermediate-High level on the ACTFL scale: they handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to work, school, recreation, and particular interests, though hesitation and errors may be evident; they handle the tasks pertaining to the Advanced level, but their performance of these tasks exhibit one or more features of breakdown such as the failure to maintain the narration or description syntactically in the appropriate time frame, the disintegration of connected discourse, the misuse of cohesive devices, a reduction in vocabulary, or a significant amount of hesitation; they are generally understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing	For French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, candidates speak at the Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL scale: they participate actively in most informal and some formal conversations dealing with topics related to school, home, and leisure activities, and to a lesser degree, those related to events of work current, public, and personal interest; they narrate and describe in present, past, and future time frames, but control of aspect may be lacking at times; they combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length; they handle appropriately a routine situation or familiar communicative task that presents a complication or unexpected turn of events; they are understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may be achieved only through	For French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, candidates speak at the "Advanced Mid" level on the ACTFL scale (or higher): they participate actively in most informal and some formal exchanges on a variety of concrete topics relating to work, school, home, and leisure activities, as well as to events of current, public, and personal interest; they narrate and describe in present, past, and future time frames, by providing a full account, with good control of aspect; their narrations and descriptions relate relevant and supporting facts in connected, paragraph-length discourse; they handle successfully and with ease a routine situation or familiar communicative task that presents a complication or unexpected turn of events; they are readily understood by native speakers

	<p>with non-natives, although gaps in communication may occur.</p> <p>For Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, candidates speak at the Intermediate-Mid level on the ACTFL scale: they handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations; conversation is limited to concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture (e.g., those including personal information covering self, family, home, daily activities, interests, and physical and social needs such as food, shopping, travel); they function reactively, by responding to direct questions or requests for information; they ask questions to obtain simple information to satisfy basic needs, such as directions, prices, services; they create with the language by recombining known elements to make utterances of sentence length and some strings of sentences, mostly in the present time frame; their speech may contain pauses, self-corrections, and inaccuracies in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation; they are generally understood by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives, although misunderstandings can occur.</p>	<p>repetition and restatement.</p> <p>For Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, candidates speak at the Intermediate-High level on the ACTFL scale: they handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to work, school, recreation, and particular interests, though hesitation and errors may be evident; they handle the tasks pertaining to the Advanced level, but their performance of these tasks will exhibit one or more features of breakdown such as the failure to maintain the narration or description syntactically in the appropriate time frame, the disintegration of connected discourse, the misuse of cohesive devices, a reduction in vocabulary, or a significant amount of hesitation; they are generally understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, although gaps in communication may occur.</p>	<p>unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.</p> <p>For Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, candidates speak at the Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL scale: they participate actively in most informal and some formal conversations dealing with topics related to school, home, and leisure activities, and to a lesser degree, those related to events of work current, public, and personal interest; they narrate and describe in present, past, and future time frames, but control of aspect may be lacking at times; they combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length; they handle appropriately a routine situation or familiar communicative task that presents a complication or unexpected turn of events; they are understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may be achieved only through repetition and restatement.</p>
<p>Interpretive Communication: Listening and reading</p>	<p>As listeners, candidates identify main ideas and most important details of the oral message, begin to move beyond literal</p>	<p>As listeners, candidates move beyond literal comprehension, infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in new contexts,</p>	<p>As listeners, candidates interpret the oral message on a number of levels, analyze it from a number of perspectives, and give a</p>

	<p>comprehension, and identify either the author's perspective(s) or cultural perspective(s).</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a Roman alphabet, including classical languages, candidates identify main ideas and most important details, begin to move beyond literal comprehension, and identify either the author's perspective(s) or cultural perspective(s).</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates demonstrate a literal level of comprehension.</p>	<p>infer and interpret the author's intent, and offer a personal interpretation of the message.</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a Roman alphabet, including classical languages, candidates move beyond literal comprehension, infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in new contexts, infer and interpret the author's intent, and offer a personal interpretation of text.</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates identify main ideas and most important details, begin to move beyond literal comprehension, and identify either the author's perspective(s) or cultural perspective(s).</p>	<p>detailed personal interpretation of the text supported by a rich range of cultural knowledge.</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a Roman alphabet, including classical languages, candidates interpret the text on a number of levels, analyze it from a number of perspectives, and give a detailed personal interpretation of the text supported by a rich range of cultural knowledge.</p> <p>For readers of target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates move beyond literal comprehension, infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in new contexts, infer and interpret the author's intent, and offer a personal interpretation of text.</p>
Presentational Communication: Speaking	<p>Candidates deliver oral pre-planned presentations dealing with familiar topics. They speak using notes, and they often read verbatim. They may speak in strings of sentences using basic vocabulary. They often focus more on the content of the presentation rather than considering the audience.</p>	<p>Candidates deliver oral presentations extemporaneously, without reading notes verbatim. Presentations consist of familiar literary and cultural topics and those of personal interest. They speak in connected discourse using a variety of time frames and vocabulary appropriate to the topic. They use extralinguistic support as needed to facilitate audience comprehension (e.g., visuals).</p>	<p>Candidates deliver oral presentations on a wide variety of topics, including those of personal interest. They speak in extended discourse and use specialized vocabulary. They use a variety of strategies to tailor the presentation to the needs of their audience (e.g., circumlocution, selecting appropriate level of formality).</p>
Interpersonal and Presentational Communication: Writing	<p>For target languages that use the Roman alphabet, candidates write at the Intermediate-High level on the ACTFL scale: they meet all practical writing needs (uncomplicated</p>	<p>For target languages that use the Roman alphabet, candidates write at the Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL scale: they write routine social correspondence, they write</p>	<p>For target languages that use the Roman alphabet, candidates write at the Advanced-Mid level on the ACTFL scale (or higher): they write straightforward summaries</p>

	<p>letters, simple summaries, compositions related to work, school, and topics of current and general interest); they connect sentences into paragraphs using a limited number of cohesive devices that tend to be repeated; they write simple descriptions and narrations of paragraph length on everyday events and situations in different time frames, although with some inaccuracies; their writing is generally comprehensible to natives not used to the writing of non-natives, but gaps in comprehension may occur.</p> <p>For target languages that use a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates write at the Intermediate-Mid level on the ACTFL scale: they write short, simple communications, compositions, descriptions, and requests for information in loosely connected texts that are based on personal preferences, daily routines, common events, and other topics related to personal experiences and immediate surroundings; their writing is framed in present time and is defined as a collection of discrete sentences and/or questions loosely strung together; their writing style resembles the grammar and lexicon of oral discourse; their writing can be understood readily by natives used to the writing of non-natives.</p>	<p>about familiar topics by means of narratives, descriptions and summaries of a factual nature in major time frames with some control of aspect; they combine sentences in texts of paragraph length; they incorporate a limited number of cohesive devices; their writing demonstrates control of simple target-language sentence structures and partial control of more complex structures syntactic structures; their writing is understood by readers accustomed to the writing of second language learners although additional effort may be required in reading the text.</p> <p>For target languages that a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates write at the Intermediate-High level on the ACTFL scale: they meet all practical writing needs (uncomplicated letters, simple summaries, compositions related to work, school, and topics of current and general interest); they connect sentences into paragraphs using a limited number of cohesive devices that tend to be repeated; they write simple descriptions and narrations of paragraph length on everyday events and situations in different time frames, although with some inaccuracies; their writing is generally comprehensible to natives not used to the writing of non-natives, but gaps in comprehension may occur.</p>	<p>and write about familiar topics relating to interests and events of current, public, and personal relevance by means of narrative and descriptions of a factual nature; they describe and narrate in all major time frames; their writing includes some variety of cohesive devices in texts of several paragraphs in length; their writing demonstrates good control of the most frequently used syntactic structures; their writing is understood readily by natives not used to the writing of non-natives.</p> <p>For target languages that a non-Roman alphabet or characters, candidates write at the Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL scale: they write routine social correspondence, they write about familiar topics by means of narratives, descriptions and summaries of a factual nature in major time frames with some control of aspect; they combine sentences in texts of paragraph length; they incorporate a limited number of cohesive devices; their writing demonstrates control of simple target-language sentence structures and partial control of more complex structures syntactic structures; their writing is understood by readers accustomed to the writing of second language learners although additional effort may be required in reading the text.</p>
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Dispositions for acquiring proficiency	Candidates make minimal use of resources such as readings and the internet in order to access the target language world beyond the classroom.	Candidates maintain and enhance their proficiency by interacting in the target language outside of the classroom, reading, and using technology to access target language communities.	Candidates have developed a systematic approach for enhancing their language proficiency on an ongoing basis by using a variety of effective materials, methodologies, and technologies.
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Standard 1.b. Understanding Linguistics. Candidates know the linguistic features of the target language system, recognize the changing nature of language, and accommodate for gaps in their own knowledge of the target language system by learning on their own.

Supporting Explanation

In order to be effective language teachers, candidates have a good understanding of the target language system. They understand and can explain the major features of the target language grammar (i.e., phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics). They are able to describe the target language phonological features (phonemes and allophones) and diagnose their own target language pronunciation problems. They understand and can describe how words are formed (morphological rules), how sentences are put together (syntactic patterns), and how meaning is conveyed (semantics). They understand and can describe the rules for word and sentence formation such as those pertaining to the verb system (time, aspect, mood), agreement (nouns and adjectives/articles, verbs and subjects), word order, the pronominal system, use of key prepositions/postpositions, and interrogatives.

Candidates understand and can describe the structure, function, and meaning of target language discourse. They understand and describe target language features for producing coherence (i.e., connection between and among sentences) in spoken and written discourse (e.g., expressions such as *first, next*), and pragmatic features of target language discourse (e.g., the intended meaning of a question can often be an indirect command as in “*Don’t you think it’s too cold to have the window open?*”). They understand and can identify the sociolinguistic features of the target language; that is, ways in which target language discourse can be tailored for a particular person or cultural or social context. Sociolinguistic features include formal/informal forms of address and politeness conventions (honorifics in the case of Japanese).

Candidates are familiar with varieties of the spoken target language. They recognize that language changes over time, and they are willing to keep abreast of these changes. When confronted with gaps in their knowledge of the target language system, they accommodate by investigating on their own.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Phonology	Candidates recognize that the target language has different phonemes and allophones than those of their native languages. They describe how some of the target language sounds are articulated.	Candidates identify phonemes and allophones of the target language. They understand the rules of the sound system of the target language. They diagnose their own target language pronunciation difficulties.	Candidates describe the differences between the phonological systems of the target and their native languages. They can explain the rules of the sound system of the target language. They can explain their own target language pronunciation difficulties.
Morphology	Candidates recognize that languages have different ways in which morphemes (parts of words) are put together to form words.	Candidates identify morphemes (affixes and stems) in the target language and describe how they are put together to form words. They recognize the meaning of new words by using morphological clues (e.g., word families).	Candidates use strategies for identifying and using new words in the target language by recombining morphemes.
Syntax	Candidates recognize that the target language has specific syntactic patterns that may be similar to or different from the patterns of their native languages. Candidates view discourse as a string of sentences.	Candidates describe syntactic patterns of the target language, such as formation of simple sentences and questions, and contrast them with those of their native languages. Candidates recognize key cohesive devices used in connected discourse (e.g., conjunctions, adverbs).	Candidates identify ways in which syntactic patterns in the target language can be used to reflect nuances of meaning. Candidates identify and use various ways to create connected discourse in the target language.
Semantics	Candidates understand the literal meaning of words and sentences. Candidates often apply the semantic categories of their native languages to those of the target language.	Candidates understand the inferred meaning of words and sentences as well as high-frequency idiomatic expressions. Candidates understand and identify semantic differences between their native languages and the target language.	Candidates understand the cultural meanings of words and sentences and of a variety of idiomatic expressions. Candidates describe the differences between the semantic systems of their native languages and the target language.

Rules for word and sentence formation	Candidates recognize that the target language has a set of rules that govern the formation of words and sentences. They identify key regularities such as those that are characteristic of the verbal system, agreement, use of pronouns, prepositions or postpositions, word order, and interrogatives.	Candidates explain the rules that govern the formation of words and sentences such as those pertaining to the verbal system, agreement, use of pronouns, prepositions and postpositions, word order, and interrogatives in terms of regularities and irregularities. They exemplify these rules with target language examples.	Candidates provide detailed descriptions of the rules that govern the formation of words and sentences. They compare the rules of the target language and their native languages. They explain how word and sentence formation can be used to express nuances of meaning.
Discourse, socio-linguistic, and pragmatic knowledge	Candidates are aware of the pragmatic and sociolinguistic features (e.g., politeness conventions, formal/informal forms of address) of target language discourse. They are aware of the target language features for creating coherence in extended spoken and printed texts.	Candidates identify the pragmatic and sociolinguistic features (e.g., politeness conventions, formal/informal forms of address) of target language discourse. They identify target language features for creating coherence in extended spoken and printed texts.	Candidates explain pragmatic and sociolinguistic features (e.g., politeness conventions, formal/informal forms of address) of target language discourse. They explain how these discourse features convey contextual and cultural meaning and how they vary based on setting, goal of communication, and participants. They explain target language features for creating coherence in extended spoken and printed texts.
Changing nature of language	Candidates recognize that the target language changes over time. They rely on target language examples as presented in their instructional materials.	Candidates identify key changes in the target language that have occurred over time (such as writing system, introduction of new words, spelling conventions, grammatical elements, etc.). They identify discrepancies that may exist between the target language of their instructional materials and contemporary usage.	Candidates describe the system of changes that have occurred in the target language over time. They are familiar with contemporary target language usage and adapt the language of their instructional materials accordingly.
Dispositions for accommodating for gaps in knowledge of target language system	Candidates ask questions when they lack knowledge of specific aspects of the target language system.	Candidates investigate the target language system and examples on their own when faced with specific aspects of the system with which they are not familiar.	Candidates take courses and/or seek remedial help in order to accommodate for gaps in their knowledge of the target language system.

Standard 1.c. Identifying Language Comparisons. Candidates know the similarities and differences between the target language and other languages, identify the key differences in varieties of the target language, and seek opportunities to learn about varieties of the target language on their own.

Supporting Explanation

One of the benefits of knowing a second language is that one gains a greater understanding of his or her own language. Candidates must be able to compare and contrast the target language with the native/other languages in order to help their students gain insights into the nature of language systems. This knowledge enables teacher candidates to organize language instruction, diagnose their students' linguistic difficulties, and assist them in understanding linguistic concepts. Candidates must also have knowledge of sociolinguistic variations of the target language in order to expose students to authentic language from a variety of regions where the language is spoken.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Comparisons between target and other languages	Candidates recognize that differences exist between the target and other languages.	Candidates identify key differences between the target and other languages and include this information in language instruction.	Candidates use comparisons of target and other languages to systematically plan for language instruction.
Sociolinguistic variation	Candidates recognize that varieties of the target language exist.	Candidates identify key features of varieties of the target language in terms of gender and dialectal differences and provide examples to students.	Candidates describe the system of rules that govern differences among varieties of the target language and explain the factors that affect these differences such as geography, culture, politics, level of education, gender, and social class. They engage students in investigating target language varieties through a variety of means including technology.
Dispositions for learning about target language varieties	Candidates learn target language varieties presented in formal educational contexts (e.g., course work).	Candidates learn about target language varieties through interaction with native speakers outside of class and by accessing authentic target language samples through a variety of means such as technology.	Candidates learn about target language varieties through experiences in immersion situations including study abroad.

Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 1

- ✓ Official or Upgraded Advisory Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or the Texas Oral Proficiency Test (TOPT) (MUST HAVE ONE OF THESE)*
- ✓ Analyses of video taped or audio taped oral presentations
- ✓ Samples of written interpersonal/presentational tasks
- ✓ Synthesis of interpretive tasks done (listening of news broadcast, reading of literary text, viewing of film), together with reflections
- ✓ Evidence of plan for continuous language and cultural growth
- ✓ Performance on examinations demonstrating knowledge of linguistics
- ✓ Reports / papers / class work in which language comparisons are made
- ✓ Analyses of interviews demonstrating interaction with native speaker(s) of the target language
- ✓ Reflections on study abroad and/or immersion experiences and experiences in target language communities

* Oral proficiency levels must be verified by a test that is administered by a central testing service; e.g., Language Testing International (LTI) or the Texas State Board for Educator Certification. Tests such as the official OPI and the TOPT ensure reliability because the testing center has procedures in place for validating the ratings. Official face-to-face or telephone OPI interviews may be arranged through LTI or through institutional academic upgrades from advisory OPIs. The TOPT may be arranged through the Texas State Board for Education Certification.

STANDARD 2: Cultures, Literatures, Cross-Disciplinary Concepts

Standard 2.a. Demonstrating Cultural Understandings. Candidates demonstrate that they understand the connections among the perspectives of a culture and its practices and products, and they integrate the cultural framework for foreign language standards into their instructional practices.

Standard 2.b. Demonstrating Understanding of Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions. Candidates recognize the value and role of literary and cultural texts and use them to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target cultures over time.

Standard 2.c. Integrating Other Disciplines in Instruction. Candidates integrate knowledge of other disciplines into foreign language instruction and identify distinctive viewpoints accessible only through the target language.

Standard 2.a. Demonstrating Cultural Understandings. Candidates demonstrate that they understand the connections among the perspectives of a culture and its practices and products, and they integrate the cultural framework for foreign language standards into their instructional practices.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates acquire knowledge of cultural perspectives as they are reflected in the practices and products of the target language. That knowledge comes from direct study of culture; from literary texts, film, and other media; and from direct experiences in the target culture. This knowledge and experience enable candidates to recognize and counteract cultural stereotypes. Candidates integrate textual and experiential knowledge into their instructional practice.

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the relationship among the perspectives, practices, and products of a culture that comprise the cultural framework for foreign language standards. The scope of cultural knowledge extends to daily living patterns and societal structures and to geography, history, religious and political systems, literature, fine arts, media, and a variety of cultural products. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences between the target and heritage cultures, and they know how to make comparisons between them. They know how to locate authentic cultural resources appropriate to support instruction.

Given that no one can be in possession of all the cultural concepts, contemporary and historical, it is important that teacher education candidates know how to investigate and hypothesize about the dynamic dimensions of culture. They pursue new insights into culture and expand their repertoire of knowledge by analyzing new cultural information that allows learners to join communities in the target culture, including information contained in documents, interactions with native speakers, and social and institutional frameworks.

Candidates recognize cultural stereotypes and their effect on student perceptions of culture and acknowledge the importance of viewing culture as a dynamic system while keeping abreast of cultural changes. Using their experiences as learners of other cultures, they help students make comparisons. They follow processes to identify, analyze, and evaluate themes, ideas, and perspectives related to the products and practices of the target culture(s). They discuss and analyze expressive products of the target culture(s) and reflect on such intangible products as social, economic, and political institutions, and they explore relationships among these institutions and the perspectives of the target culture(s). Candidates then present information about the target culture products, practices, and perspectives to an audience of listeners/speakers.

Candidates use the framework of perspectives, practices, and products, not only for their own learning, but to help students analyze and understand culture. They embed culture into curriculum, instruction, and assessment. They distinguish between authentic cultural resources (that is, those materials that are created by and for native speakers of the target language) and those that may trivialize or provide an inaccurate view of the culture. They

engage students in cultural investigations and projects. Candidates teach cultural comparisons when appropriate for instruction, engage students in investigating cultural comparisons, and conduct classroom activities that heighten students' awareness of their own culture(s). They use the community and technology as resources for integrating and teaching culture.

Native speakers of the target language understand the language and culture of the community in which they teach so that they can elicit linguistic and cultural comparisons, make connections to the other disciplines in the curriculum, and reach out to the broader community.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Cultural knowledge	Candidates cite examples of cultural practices, products, perspectives, but the examples reflect a cultural knowledge base that is still developing.	Candidates cite key cultural perspectives and provide support through description of products and practices.	Candidates view the target culture as a system in which cultural perspectives are reflected through practices and products.
Cultural experience	Candidates' experience with the target culture has been limited to travel/tourism or instruction.	Candidates have spent planned time in a target culture or community so that they have personal experience to support academic study.	Candidates interpret journals or observations from cultural informants, which narrate or describe experiences in studying, living, or working in a target culture. Candidates also collect their own cultural observations from extended time in the target culture or, for native speakers, from their personal experiences growing up in a target culture.
Process of analyzing cultures	Candidates rely on cultural analyses that are ready available (in instructional materials) or are learned (information they have acquired through study and/or personal experiences).	Candidates demonstrate that they can analyze and hypothesize about unfamiliar or unknown cultural issues. They use the framework of the foreign language standards or another cultural model to investigate hypotheses that arise from materials or events that contain cultural questions or assumptions.	Candidates collect and use instruction materials that pose significant cultural questions or that illustrate cultural changes. They use a cultural framework to keep abreast of the changing nature of culture and its cultural variations.
Integrating culture into instruction	Candidates integrate into instruction discrete pieces of cultural information, either found in instructional	Candidates use the standards framework or other cultural model to integrate culture into daily	Candidates use a systematic approach for integrating culture into instruction and/or they use culture as

	materials or acquired through study and/or personal experiences. They expect students to learn discrete pieces of information about the target culture.	lessons and units of instruction. They engage students in exploring the products and practices that relate to specific perspectives of the target culture.	the content for language instruction. They give students the tools for analyzing ways in which cultural products, practices, and perspectives are connected in the target culture.
Dispositions for cultural learning	Candidates base their own and their students' cultural work on familiar and factual cultural content.	Candidates integrate cultural insights with the target language in its communicative functions and content areas. They work to extend their knowledge of culture through independent work and interactions with native speakers.	Candidates emphasize cultural concepts as they teach language, analyze and synthesize cultural information from authentic sources in various media and in relation to specific communities or audiences. They work to build a large repertoire of cultural knowledge and experiences.

Standard 2.b. Demonstrating Understanding of Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions. Candidates recognize the value and role of literary and cultural texts and use them to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target cultures over time.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates have a broad understanding of and an appreciation for traditions in the target language. They are able to identify the contributions of major writers, thinkers, artists, and cultural icons, the roles they play, and references made to them in the culture. Literary texts include children's literature as well as varieties of adult contemporary literature. Candidates are familiar with and able to interpret texts in the variety of discourses that represent the target culture's traditions and contemporary variations.

Candidates read at the level of analysis, interpretation, and synthesis. They use their knowledge of the literary traditions to interpret changes in the culture over time. Candidates are able to compare and contrast literary traditions in the target culture with those of other cultures. In turn, candidates select and adapt literary texts in ways that engage their students in activities that heighten awareness of target cultures and advance students' communicative proficiencies. Candidates expand their own language proficiency and cultural knowledge through independent and on-going work with literary and cultural texts.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Knowledge of literary and cultural texts	Candidates are aware of major literary texts and have read excerpts, abridgments, or reviews of those works and authors.	Candidates interpret literary texts that represent defining works in the target cultures. They identify themes, authors, historical style, and	Candidates interpret and synthesize ideas and critical issues from literary and other cultural texts that represent the historical and

		text types in a variety of media that the cultures deem important in understanding the traditions of the cultures.	contemporary works of a wide range of writers in a wide range of forms and media. They interpret from multiple viewpoints and approaches.
Integrating texts from literature and other media in instruction	Candidates use literary and cultural texts as they accompany teaching plans in instructional materials, and they elicit a literal interpretation of them.	Candidates select literary and cultural texts appropriate to age, interests, and proficiency level of their students. They integrate these texts into lessons, design activities that develop language competencies based on these texts, and engage students in interpreting their meaning and the cultural perspectives that they represent.	Candidates systematically use literary and cultural texts as the basis for helping students to gain insights into the products, practices, and perspectives of the target culture(s), and to expand language competencies.
Dispositions toward exploring literatures and other texts and media	Candidates use in their teaching the texts available in the instructional materials that support the curriculum.	Candidates identify from their studies lists of texts they plan to use and adapt in their teaching. They enrich classroom content with texts and topics valued by the culture. These texts are taken from literature and other media.	Candidates seek out age-appropriate materials valued by the culture that represent literature, film, and media to expand the repertoire of texts they use in instruction.

Standard 2.c. Integrating Other Disciplines in Instruction. Candidates integrate knowledge of other disciplines into foreign language instruction and identify distinctive viewpoints accessible only through the target language.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates use their proficiency in the target language to access information on disciplines and interdisciplinary perspectives that represent the target culture. Virtually every document, oral or written, that has been created in the target language provides insights, conveys ideas, or represents creative expression from the culture. The foreign language field has always been heavily interdisciplinary, and candidates derive much of their knowledge of the culture from content in fields such as, history, geography, art history, theater, and philosophy, as well as political and natural sciences. Candidates are expected to expand their academic knowledge by reading texts or listening to or watching tapes, film, video, or the Internet from a variety of disciplinary sources.

Candidates demonstrate knowledge in the target language of a variety of disciplines and their applications to the interpretation of cultures, understand how to integrate content from other subject areas into the foreign language curriculum, locate content area sources

that are appropriate for the level of instruction, age of students, program goals, and interests of students. Candidates reinforce subject area content in the foreign language in a comprehensible and meaningful manner and provide their students with strategies for learning the content of other subject areas through the foreign language.

Candidates believe that other subject areas can be enhanced through foreign language study and recognize that subject area content motivates learners and connects the foreign language with other disciplines in the curriculum. They are curious about and seek opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from other disciplines to find appropriate areas of connection between foreign language and other subjects in the curriculum. Recognizing the value of using authentic texts, such as those found on the Internet, to provide students with distinctive viewpoints, they are willing to work collaboratively with students to learn new subject area content.

Candidates believe that they can acquire new information and distinctive viewpoints that are accessible only through the target language. Therefore, candidates provide opportunities for their students to explore specialized topics or areas of interest through foreign language texts and materials. Since candidates may not be familiar with all areas of interest of their students, they are willing to work collaboratively with students to learn new subject content. Their classrooms, therefore, become communities of learners in which both the teacher and learner explore and learn new content together.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Integration of other subject areas into language instruction	Candidates integrate discrete pieces of information from other subject areas, usually as they appear in instructional materials.	Candidates integrate concepts from other subject areas such as math, science, social studies, art, and music. They teach students strategies for learning this new content in the foreign language.	Candidates implement a content-based approach to language instruction that is based on the integration of language and subject-area content.
Planning for cross-disciplinary instruction	Candidates plan to integrate subject-area content by using resources that accompany instructional materials.	Candidates collaborate with colleagues in making connections between language and other subject areas. They locate authentic resources appropriate to the age, grade level, program goals, and interests of their students.	Candidates systematically plan for instruction with colleagues from other subject areas. They may do team-teaching in order to fully integrate instruction.
Dispositions for integrating other subject areas into language instruction	Candidates' philosophy of language teaching focuses primarily on language instruction, with minimal attention to other content areas.	Candidates devote time to finding ways to integrate subject-area content and to locating authentic resources. They are willing to learn new content with students.	Candidates create a community of learners within the classroom, in which the teacher and learners work together to acquire new information and perspectives across disciplines.

Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 2

- ✓ Projects / technology-enhanced presentations on literary or cultural topics
- ✓ Performance on examinations demonstrating understanding of cultural framework
- ✓ Capstone projects / research reports addressing cross-disciplinary content
- ✓ Reports on classroom experiences, describing cultural knowledge/perspectives acquired
- ✓ Journal entries that illustrate knowledge and understanding of the culture, acquired as a result of interaction with target-language communities
- ✓ Annotated list of websites that serve as sources of cultural and subject-matter content
- ✓ Philosophy of teaching statement that addresses the role of culture, literature, and cross-disciplinary content
- ✓ Lesson plans demonstrating the integration of culture and content from other disciplines into language lessons
- ✓ K-12 student work samples that illustrate cultural learning
- ✓ Reflections on the benefits of extra-curricular events attended, such as theatre, round-table discussions, etc.
- ✓ Literary interpretations of a variety of texts

STANDARD 3: Language Acquisition Theories and Instructional Practices

Standard 3.a. Understanding Language Acquisition and Creating a Supportive Classroom. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of language acquisition at various developmental levels and use this knowledge to create a supportive classroom learning environment that includes target language input and opportunities for negotiation of meaning and meaningful interaction.

Standard 3.b. Developing Instructional Practices That Reflect Language Outcomes and Learner Diversity. Candidates develop a variety of instructional practices that reflect language outcomes and articulated program models and address the needs of diverse language learners.

Standard 3.a. Understanding Language Acquisition and Creating a Supportive Classroom. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of language acquisition at various developmental levels and use this knowledge to create a supportive classroom learning environment that includes target language input and opportunities for negotiation of meaning and meaningful interaction.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates understand how language acquisition occurs at various developmental levels (e.g., elementary school students vs. adolescents) both within and outside of the formal

classroom setting. They use the target language in the classroom to the maximum extent possible, provide meaningful target language input, and assist students in understanding this input. Teachers build lessons around topics drawn from a variety of subject areas, such as content-based lessons that integrate language, culture, and student interests. Candidates provide guided assistance to students to help them learn to negotiate meaning and take risks with the language as they use it to express thoughts and ideas. They provide opportunities for students to use the target language to express meaning and fulfill a variety of communicative needs. They design tasks through which students interact meaningfully with one another, with the teacher, and with native speakers of the target language. Candidates possess the dispositions necessary for creating a supportive classroom environment that is reflective of student needs. They are able to assume a role as facilitator. Their feedback to students focuses not only on linguistic accuracy but also on the meaning of their messages, and they offer encouragement and affirmation of their students' progress in the target language. They recognize that errors occur as part of the language acquisition process, and they encourage students to take risks in using the target language.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Language acquisition theories	Candidates exhibit an awareness of the key concepts of language acquisition theories as they relate to K-12 learners at various developmental levels. They illustrate an ability to connect theory with practice. They show a growing awareness of the connection between student learning and the use of instructional strategies.	Candidates exhibit an understanding of language acquisition theories, including the use of target language input, negotiation of meaning, interaction, and a supportive learning environment. They draw on their knowledge of theories, as they apply to K-12 learners at various developmental levels, in designing teaching strategies that facilitate language acquisition.	Candidates exhibit ease and flexibility in applying language acquisition theories to instructional practice. They use a wide variety of strategies to meet the linguistic needs of their K-12 students at various developmental levels. Candidates exhibit originality in the planning, creation and implementation of instructional strategies that reflect language acquisition theories.
Target language input	Candidates use the target language for specific parts of classroom lessons at all levels of instruction, but avoid spontaneous interaction with students in the target language. They use some strategies to help students understand oral and written input.	Candidates use the target language to the maximum extent in classes at all levels of instruction. They designate certain times for spontaneous interaction with students in the target language. They tailor language use to students' developing proficiency levels. They use a variety of strategies to help students understand oral and written input. They use the target language to design content-based language lessons.	Candidates structure classes to maximize use of the target language at all levels of instruction. A key component of their classes is their spontaneous interaction with students in the target language. They assist students in developing a repertoire of strategies for understanding oral and written input. They use the target language to teach a variety of subject-matter and cultural content.

Negotiation of meaning	Since most classroom interaction is planned, candidates do not regularly negotiate meaning with students. They teach students some expressions in the target language for negotiating meaning, such as <i>“Could you repeat that, please?”</i>	Candidates negotiate meaning with students when spontaneous interaction occurs. They teach students a variety of ways to negotiate meaning with others and provide opportunities for them to do so in classroom activities.	Negotiation of meaning is an integral part of classroom interaction. Candidates negotiate meaning regularly with students. They teach students to integrate negotiation of meaning strategies into their communication with others.
Meaningful classroom interaction	Candidates use communicative activities as the basis for engaging students in meaningful classroom interaction. These activities and meaningful contexts are those that occur in instructional materials.	Candidates design activities in which students will have opportunities to interact meaningfully with one another. The majority of activities and tasks are standards-based and have meaningful contexts that reflect curricular themes and students’ interests.	Meaningful classroom interaction is at the heart of language instruction. Candidates engage students in communicative and interesting activities and tasks on a regular basis. All classroom interaction reflects engaging contexts that are personalized to the interests of students and reflect curricular goals.
Dispositions for creating a supportive classroom environment	<p>Candidates employ exercises and activities that require students to provide predictable and/or correct answers.</p> <p>Candidates assume a traditional role of teacher as director of learning.</p> <p>The feedback that candidates offer students is primarily evaluative in nature and focuses on the accuracy of their language.</p> <p>Candidates encourage students to progress within the framework of instructional materials.</p>	<p>Candidates employ exercises and activities that require students to provide open-ended, personalized responses.</p> <p>Candidates often assume the role of facilitator in classroom activities. Some activities provide opportunities for them to learn with their students.</p> <p>Candidates provide feedback to students that focuses on meaning as well as linguistic accuracy. They view errors as a normal part of the language acquisition process.</p> <p>Candidates employ strategies to encourage and affirm student progress. Candidates encourage students to take risks in using the target language.</p>	<p>Candidates use an approach in which personalized, creative language use is central to all activities.</p> <p>The principal role of the candidate is as facilitator of learning in the language classroom. Candidates value opportunities to learn with their students.</p> <p>Candidates engage students in monitoring their own progress and in asking for assistance from the teacher. They engage students in tracking their own errors and their progress and in providing feedback to their peers.</p> <p>Candidates reward students for taking risks in using the target language.</p>

Standard 3.b. Developing Instructional Practices That Reflect Language Outcomes and Learner Diversity. Candidates develop a variety of instructional practices that reflect language outcomes and articulated program models and address the needs of diverse language learners.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of K-12 students at all levels of instruction. They understand the important effects of language acquisition theories and learner development on instructional planning and practice. They understand the relationship of foreign language program models and language outcomes. As schools develop longer sequences, candidates recognize the benefits of well-articulated sequences of instruction. They provide a range of learning opportunities for learners of various ages, developmental and linguistic levels, language backgrounds, and learning styles. They demonstrate the ability to adapt language instruction to address students' multiple ways of learning and to meet their special needs. They are willing to seek out information about their students' needs in order to adapt instruction accordingly.

Candidates use a variety of instructional strategies to engage students in critical thinking and problem solving. They value the role of inquiry and collaboration in the language classroom. They maximize learning and interaction through the use of pair, small group, and large group activities. Candidates use questioning strategies and task-based instruction as appropriate given the goals of instruction in the language classroom.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Theories of learner development and instruction	Candidates recognize that K-12 students have different physical, cognitive, emotional, and social developmental characteristics. Candidates recognize the need to tailor instruction to accommodate their students' developmental needs. They are aware that many different instructional models and techniques exist.	Candidates describe the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social developmental characteristics of K-12 students. They implement a variety of instructional models and techniques to accommodate these differences.	Candidates plan for instruction according to the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social developmental needs of their K-12 students. They tailor instruction to meet the developmental needs of their students.
Understanding of relationship of articulated program models to language outcomes	Candidates recognize that different foreign language program models (e.g., FLES, FLEX, immersion) exist and lead to different language outcomes.	Candidates describe how foreign language program models (e.g., FLES, FLEX, immersion) lead to different language outcomes.	Candidates design and/or implement specific foreign language program models that lead to different language outcomes.

Adapting instruction to address students' language levels, language backgrounds, learning styles	Candidates recognize that their students have a wide range of language levels, language backgrounds, and learning styles. They attempt to address these differences by using a limited variety of instructional strategies.	Candidates seek out information regarding their students' language levels, language backgrounds, and learning styles. They implement a variety of instructional models and techniques to address these student differences.	Candidates consistently use information about their students' language levels, language backgrounds, and learning styles to plan for and implement language instruction.
Adapting instruction to address students' multiple ways of learning	Candidates recognize that students approach language learning in a variety of ways. They identify how individual students learn.	Candidates identify multiple ways in which students learn when engaged in language classroom activities.	Candidates plan for and implement a variety of instructional models and strategies that accommodate different ways of learning.
Adapting instruction to meet students' special needs	Candidates identify special needs of their students, including cognitive, physical, linguistic, social, and emotional needs. They recognize that they may need to adapt instruction to meet these special needs.	Candidates implement a variety of instructional models and techniques that address specific special needs of their students.	Candidates anticipate their students' special needs by planning for alternative classroom activities as necessary.
Critical thinking and problem solving	Candidates implement activities that have a limited number of answers and allow little room for critical thinking and/or problem solving.	Candidates implement activities that promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.	Candidates reward their students for engaging in critical thinking and problem solving.
Grouping	Candidates teach primarily with large-group instruction. Pair- and small-group activities generally consist of students grouped together but working individually.	Candidates conduct activities in which students work collaboratively in pairs and small groups. They define and model the task, give a time limit and expectations for follow-up, group students, assign students roles, monitor the task, and conduct a follow-up activity.	Candidates provide regular opportunities for students to work collaboratively in pairs and small-groups. They teach their students strategies for assuming roles, monitoring their progress in the task, and evaluating their performance at the end of the task.
Use of questioning and tasks	Candidates use short-answer questioning as the primary strategy for eliciting language from students.	Candidates recognize that questioning strategies and task-based activities serve different instructional objectives. They use tasks as they appear in their instructional materials.	Candidates have an approach to planning and instruction that integrates the appropriate design and use of both questioning strategies and task-based activities, based on instructional objectives and the nature of language use that they want to elicit from students.
Dispositions about	Candidates adapt	Candidates seek out	Candidates value diversity

student diversity	instruction to address students' needs when they are given specific instructions of how to do so.	opportunities to learn about their students, their backgrounds, and their special needs. They adapt instruction to address students' needs.	in their classrooms. They work with students, parents, colleagues, and others to address the special needs of their students.
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Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 3

- ✓ Performance on examinations demonstrating understanding of language acquisition theories and the relationship between theory and practice
- ✓ Reflections on classroom observations and/or case study reports that include discussion of theory and practice
- ✓ Reflections on lesson plans that illustrate teaching practices based on language acquisition theories
- ✓ Self-evaluations/reflections on video taped lessons taught by candidate
- ✓ Written classroom learning scenarios in which the candidate describes expected outcomes of the teaching segments, instructional decisions made prior to and during the lessons, and an assessment of K-12 student learning and teaching performance
- ✓ Analysis of teaching performance over time that addresses progress made in providing target language input, using negotiation of meaning, engaging students in interactions, serving as facilitator in the classroom, providing feedback that focuses on meaning and accuracy, using questions and tasks appropriately, and encouraging students to take risks in using the target language
- ✓ Lesson plans (and reflections on lessons) that illustrate modifications to meet specific learner needs, address multiple ways of learning, promote cultural thinking and problem solving, and engage students in pair and group activities
- ✓ Written synthesis of professional journal articles that address current research and/or teaching practices, together with a reflection on the information learned

STANDARD 4: Integration of Standards Into Curriculum and Instruction

Standard 4.a. Understanding and Integrating Standards in Planning. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the goal areas and standards of the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning* and their state standards, and they integrate these frameworks into curricular planning.

Standard 4.b. Integrating Standards in Instruction. Candidates integrate the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning* and their state standards into language instruction.

Standard 4.c. Selecting and Designing Instructional Materials. Candidates use standards and curricular goals to evaluate, select, design, and adapt instructional resources.

Standard 4.a. Understanding and Integrating Standards in Planning. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the goal areas and standards of the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning*, and their state standards, and they integrate these frameworks into curricular planning.

Supporting Explanation

The *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* (1999) have defined what our students should know and be able to do as a result of their experiences in foreign language classrooms across the nation. If our national vision for foreign language study in grades K-12 is to be realized, candidates must have a thorough understanding of the five goal areas (Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Connections, Communities) and eleven content standards. They can identify the five goal areas and describe the eleven standards. They design unit and daily lesson plan objectives that address the goal areas and standards. They can identify the goal areas and standards addressed in instructional and classroom activities, and they design activities that address specific goal areas and standards. They are willing to integrate standards in some way even if their instructional materials do not. In addition, candidates are familiar with their state standards for foreign language learning and recognize the connection between the state and national standards.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Understanding of goal areas and standards	Candidates name the goal areas and standards of the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning</i> , and identify the similarities between their state and national foreign language standards.	Candidates describe how the goal areas and standards (both national and state) are addressed in instructional materials and/or classroom activities.	Candidates use the national and state foreign language standards as a rationale for the significance of language study.
Integration of standards into planning	Candidates apply goal areas and standards (both national and state) to their planning to the extent that their instructional materials do so.	Candidates create unit/lesson plan objectives that address specific goal areas and standards (national and state). They design activities and/or adapt instructional materials and activities to address specific standards.	Candidates use the goal areas and standards of the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning</i> , as well as their state standards, to design curriculum and unit/lesson plans.
Dispositions for integrating standards into planning	Candidates apply national and state standards to their planning to the extent that they are explicitly integrated in their instructional materials.	Candidates integrate national and state standards into their curricular planning, even if their instructional materials are not standards-based.	Candidates articulate a rationale for using national and state standards as the basis for curriculum development.

Standard 4.b. Integrating Standards in Instruction. Candidates integrate the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* and their state standards into language instruction.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates use their knowledge of the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* and of their state standards to make instructional decisions. They find ways to conduct classroom activities that address specific goal areas and standards. When necessary, they adapt instructional materials in order to align them with the standards and thus bring about communication that mirrors more closely communication that occurs outside of the classroom. They have a good understanding of the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication, and they manage communication in their classrooms by integrating these three modes in instruction. Accordingly, their activities and tasks lead students from one mode to the next, reflecting communication as it naturally occurs. Candidates understand culture from an anthropological view and engage their students in exploring cultural systems in terms of their interrelated products, practices, and perspectives. Candidates find ways to integrate content from other subject areas into their language teaching, enabling their students to learn content and language simultaneously. Integrating connections with other disciplines often requires collaboration with teachers of other subject areas in the school or school district. Candidates provide opportunities for their students to connect with target-language communities through a variety of means, including technology. Candidates view the connection with communities as an important way of helping their students to use the language beyond the classroom and to begin to be life-long language learners. Candidates design standards-based activities, even if their instructional materials are not standards-based, and they are willing to acquire whatever knowledge and skills that are necessary to do so.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Overall integration of standards into instruction	Candidates conduct activities that address specific goal areas and standards of the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning</i> and their state standards to the extent that their instructional materials include a connection to standards.	Candidates adapt exercises and activities as necessary to address specific goal areas and standards of the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning</i> and their state standards.	The goal areas and standards of the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning</i> and/or their state standards are the focus of all classroom activities.
Integration of three modes of communication	Candidates understand the connection among the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. They focus on one mode at a time in instruction and classroom activities.	Candidates design opportunities for their students to communicate by using the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes in an integrated manner.	Candidates use the interpersonal-interpretive-presentational framework as the basis for planning and implementing classroom communication.

Integration of cultural products, practices, perspectives	Candidates understand the anthropological view of culture in terms of products, practices, and perspectives. They refer to one or more of these areas in their teaching of culture.	Candidates design opportunities for their students to explore the target language culture(s) by means of cultural products, practices, and perspectives.	Candidates use the products-practices-perspectives framework as the basis for planning and implementing cultural instruction.
Connections to other subject areas	Candidates make connections to other subject areas as these connections are made in their instructional materials.	Candidates plan for and design opportunities for their students to learn about other subject areas in the foreign language. They obtain information about other subject areas from colleagues who teach those subjects.	Candidates design a content-based curriculum and collaborate with colleagues from other subject areas. They assist their students in acquiring new information from other disciplines in the foreign language.
Connections to target- language communities	Candidates help their students to connect with target-language communities through the use of videos that accompany their instructional materials and/or native speaker presentations in the classroom.	Candidates provide opportunities for their students to connect to target-language communities through a variety of means such as technology and authentic materials.	Candidates use connections to target-language communities as a key component of their planning and instruction.
Dispositions for integrating standards into instruction	Candidates integrate goal areas and standards into instruction only if they are explicitly integrated in their instructional materials.	Candidates design and implement activities that are standards-based, even if their instructional materials and curriculum are not standards-based. They acquire knowledge and skills to be able to do this.	Candidates use the goal areas and standards to drive language instruction. They participate in professional development activities to enhance their knowledge and expertise with standards.

Standard 4.c. Selecting and Designing Instructional Materials. Candidates use standards and curricular goals to evaluate, select, adapt, and design instructional materials.

Supporting Explanation

The *Standards for Foreign Language Learning* have served as a catalyst for change, not only in the areas of planning and classroom instruction, but also in the selection, adaptation, and design of instructional materials. Candidates use the organizing principles of the standards as they evaluate, select, and create instructional materials. Where in the past the textbook was the primary resource, candidates now use the textbook as one of many resources. These resources include visuals, realia, authentic printed and oral texts, and other authentic materials obtained through technology (e.g., Internet). Candidates locate and use authentic materials in their teaching, since the value of authentic materials

is that they reflect real-world language as it is used by native speakers in target cultures. Candidates adapt the textbook and other materials to align them with standards-based goals. They devote the effort necessary to locate effective materials, to adapt them, and to design their own.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Evaluation, selection, creation of standards-based materials	Candidates base their selection and design of materials on short-term instructional objectives more than on standards and/or curricular goals.	Candidates use their knowledge of standards and curricular goals to evaluate, select, and design materials, including visuals, realia, authentic printed and oral materials, and other resources obtained through technology.	Candidates base their selection and design of materials on the standards philosophy and their curricular goals. They creatively use a wealth of resources including visuals, realia, authentic printed and oral materials, and other resources obtained through technology. They justify the use of these materials.
Use of authentic materials	Candidates primarily use materials created for formal classroom use.	Candidates identify and integrate authentic materials into classroom activities (e.g., tape recorded news broadcasts and talk shows, magazine and newspaper articles, literary selections, video taped talk shows, realia). They help students to acquire strategies for understanding and interpreting authentic texts.	Candidates use authentic materials to plan for and deliver instruction. They implement a variety of classroom activities based on authentic materials. They engage students in acquiring new information by exploring authentic texts.
Adaptation of materials	Candidates use instructional materials as they have been developed commercially.	Candidates adapt materials as necessary to reflect standards-based goals and instruction when materials fall short.	An integral part of candidates' planning is to adapt materials to make standards-based learning more effective.
Dispositions for locating resources and creating materials	Candidates use instructional materials that are readily available.	Candidates locate additional resources that enhance topics/themes in the curriculum.	Candidates plan to address standards through appropriate materials. They seek out appealing resources from which to create materials.

Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 4

- ✓ Written correlation of the candidate's state standards to national standards
- ✓ Written classroom learning scenarios that illustrate integration of standards into teaching
- ✓ Unit / lesson plans (with reflections) that illustrate standards-based lessons and samples of K-12 student work
- ✓ Written rationales for the selection of materials used in lessons
- ✓ List of sources of standards-based lesson materials, including authentic materials and those obtained through various technologies
- ✓ Journal entries that describe how the candidate uses technology to integrate the standards into instruction
- ✓ Written critiques of instructional resources such as the text, websites, video segments
- ✓ Instructional materials created by the candidate and a description of how materials are used and for which learning outcomes
- ✓ Instructional materials adapted by the candidate with a description of how and why materials were adapted

STANDARD 5: Assessment of Languages and Cultures

Standard 5.a. Knowing assessment models and using them appropriately.

Candidates believe that assessment is ongoing, and they demonstrate knowledge of multiple ways of assessment that are age- and level-appropriate by implementing purposeful measures.

Standard 5.b. Reflecting on assessment. Candidates reflect on the results of student assessments, adjust instruction accordingly, analyze the results of assessments, and use success and failure to determine the direction of instruction.

Standard 5.c. Reporting assessment results. Candidates interpret and report the results of student performances to all stakeholders and provide opportunity for discussion.

Standard 5.a. Knowing assessment models and using them appropriately. Candidates believe that assessment is ongoing, and they demonstrate knowledge of multiple ways of assessment that are age- and level-appropriate by implementing purposeful measures.

Supporting Explanation

Recent years have seen dramatic changes in the formats of testing that are appropriate to measuring foreign language performances. Although there are aspects of assessment that may be addressed in general testing courses, assessment of communicative and cultural

competencies in foreign languages require processes, procedures, and evaluation unique to specific languages.

Candidates understand that appropriate assessment of students is a continual process that informs classroom instruction. Foreign language assessments can be both formative (i.e., given during the course of study, the results of which are used to alter instruction) and summative (i.e., given at the end of a program of study) and teachers recognize and utilize both models purposefully. The various modes of communication and the acquisition of cultural knowledge all require specific measurement models that focus on student performance. Candidates are able to assess interpersonal communication, interpretive communication, and presentational communication orally and in writing. Listening/speaking in the interpersonal mode is assessed through oral interviews or tasks in which the student's ability to negotiate meaning can be observed. An interview or variations thereof allow teachers to see at what level students consistently perform as well as where they must compensate for their evolving competence. Successful communication requires more than words; it is also contingent upon appropriate cultural behaviors and knowledge of specific contexts and/or topics. Interpretive communication looks at how students, as listeners or readers, derive meaning from authentic texts, literary and informational. Measures should reveal not only what is understood but also what is inferred from the cultural context, and responses should include forced choice, short answer, and open-ended formats. Presentational communication, planned speaking or writing, should assess the end product of the student's work and scoring should include a holistic measure and not just a detailing of errors. Candidates should be familiar with a variety of performance guidelines such as the *ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners* (1998) (see Appendix A), the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking* (1999), the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines-Writing* (2001), and appropriate state performance guidelines.

In addition to designing measures of separate communicative modes, candidates should create foreign language assessments that measure student performances in an integrated context. These assessments feature a series of tasks built around a theme that engages students in an interpretive task (e.g., reading a recipe), followed by an interpersonal task (e.g., discussing the potential health value of the recipe), followed by a presentational task (e.g., critiquing the recipe in a newsletter).

Candidates are able to assess student learning about the perspectives, practices, and products of the target cultures and comparisons to their own cultures. Candidates seek opportunities to assess how students use their language in culturally appropriate ways beyond the classroom. Candidates also integrate assessment measures into regular classroom instruction and understand that performance assessment frequently encompasses multiple areas of student knowledge and skills.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Formative and summative assessment models	Candidates recognize the purposes of formative and summative assessments as set forth in prepared testing	Candidates design formative assessments to measure achievement within a unit of instruction	Candidates design a system of formative and summative assessments that measure overall

	materials.	and summative assessments to measure achievement at the end of a unit or chapter.	development of proficiency in an ongoing manner and at culminating points in the total program.
Interpretive communication	Candidates use interpretive assessments found in instructional materials prepared by others. The reading/listening materials with which they work tend to be those prepared for pedagogical purposes.	Candidates design performance assessments that measure students' abilities to comprehend and interpret authentic oral and written texts from the target cultures. The assessments they design and use encompass a variety of response types from forced choice to open-ended.	Candidates design assessment procedures that encourage students to interpret oral and printed texts of their choice. Many of these involve students' developing of self-assessment skills to encourage independent interpretation.
Interpersonal communication	Candidates use interpersonal assessment measures found in instructional materials prepared by others.	Candidates design performance assessments that measure students' abilities to negotiate meaning as listeners/speakers and as readers/writers in an interactive mode. Assessments focus on tasks at students' levels of comfort but pose some challenges.	Candidates have had training or experience conducting and rating interpersonal assessments that have been developed according to procedures that assure reliability such as the MOPI (modified oral proficiency interview) or state-designed instruments.
Presentational communication	Candidates use presentational assessment measures found in instructional materials prepared by others.	Candidates design and use assessments that capture how well student speak and write in planned contexts. The assessments focus on the final products created after a drafting process and look at how meaning is conveyed in culturally appropriate ways. They create and use effective holistic and/or analytical scoring methods.	Candidates create presentational tasks that develop students' abilities to self-assess which includes self-correction and revision in terms of audience, style, and cultural context. They encourage students to write or to speak on topics of interest to the students.
Cultural perspectives	Candidates assess isolated cultural facts.	Candidates devise assessments that allow students to apply the cultural framework to authentic documents. Student tasks include identifying the products, practices, and perspectives embedded in those documents.	Candidates design assessments of problem-solving tasks in content areas of interest to students and possibly on topics not familiar to the teacher.
Integrated	Candidates recognize that	Candidates utilize existing	Candidates design

communication assessments	assessments can lead students from one mode of communication to another (e.g., a reading task to a written letter to a discussion), but they tend to score the subsets of skills.	standards-based performance assessments (e.g., integrated performance assessments), that allow students to work through a series of communicative tasks on a particular theme (e.g., wellness, travel). They are able to evaluate performance in a global manner.	standards-based performance assessments for their students based upon models available in the literature or from professional organizations.
Dispositions toward global assessments	Candidates cite the role of performance assessment in the classroom and attempt to measure performances. They rely more on assessments that are discrete point in nature or feature right-answer responses.	Candidates assess what students know and are able to do by using and designing assessments that capture successful communication and cultural understandings. They commit the effort necessary to measure end performances.	Candidates design assessments for which the results can be used to improve teaching and track student learning. These assessments drive planning and instruction.

Standard 5.b. Reflecting on assessment. Candidates reflect on the results of student assessments, adjust instruction accordingly, analyze the results of assessments, and use success and failure to determine the direction of instruction.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates systematically reflect upon the student performances in order to adapt their instruction. The results of assessment indicate to teachers where student strengths lie, where alternative instructional strategies are necessary, where skills or knowledge must be reinforced, and where additional practice must be provided. Candidates recognize that students acquire proficiency over time and that the equation between what is taught and what is learned is imperfect; students' performances provide evidence of different rates of acquisition.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Reflection	Candidates interpret assessments as correct/incorrect student responses even when reflecting upon holistic measures.	Candidates observe and analyze the results of student performances so as to discern both global success and underlying inaccuracies.	Candidates teach students to reflect upon their performances in both a global and analytical fashion.
Adjusting instruction	Candidates use assessment results to conduct whole group remediation or review.	Candidates use insights gained from assessing student performances to adapt, change, and reinforce instruction.	Candidates use assessment results as they work with students individually to help them identify the gaps in their knowledge and

			skills.
Dispositions for incorporating and reflecting on assessment	Candidates use assessments that can be scored quickly and mechanically. Assessment is viewed as an end in and of itself.	Candidates incorporate what they have learned from assessments and show how they have adjusted instruction. The commitment to do this is established in their planning.	Candidates design assessments and use results to improve teaching and student learning.

Standard 5.c. Reporting assessment results. Candidates interpret and report the results of student performances to all stakeholders and provide opportunity for discussion.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates believe in the transparency embedded in performance assessment in that the assessment tasks themselves reveal the strengths and areas for growth of student knowledge and skills. Candidates are able to help students understand the level at which they perform most competently and how they progress to a more advanced level. Performance assessments demonstrate how well and to what degree students can use the language effectively for communication and behave appropriately in the target cultures. Candidates are able to describe what their students can do and begin to develop that message for the various publics. Candidates can convey this information to administrators, school boards, or parents in ways important to these stakeholders. They are willing to commit to reporting assessment results accurately and clearly.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Interpreting and reporting progress to students	Candidates report student progress in terms of grades, scores, and information on discrete aspects of language or cultural facts.	Candidates interpret and report accurately the progress students are making in terms of language proficiency and cultural knowledge. They use the performances to illustrate both what students can do and how they can advance.	Candidates identify ways of involving students in understanding testing procedures and scoring mechanisms so that students gain confidence in self-assessment and in planning for personal growth.
Communicating with stakeholders	Candidates identify the stakeholders and their roles and interests in assessment of student progress.	Candidates report student progress to students and parents. They use appropriate terminology and share examples that illustrate student learning.	Candidates communicate to audiences in the schools and community how assessment reflects language proficiency and cultural experiences.
Dispositions for reporting assessment results	Candidates find short-cut ways to report assessment results.	Candidates report assessment results accurately and clearly.	Candidates report assessment results in a way that is tailored to particular groups of stakeholders.

Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 5

- ✓ Performance on examinations demonstrating knowledge of assessment principles and models
- ✓ Samples of formative and summative K-12 assessments/rubrics across the communicative modes and cultural framework
- ✓ Analyses of video taped student performances on assessment tasks, together with rubrics and assessment results
- ✓ Samples and analyses of integrated performance assessments
- ✓ Reports of how assessment results were used to improve future instruction
- ✓ Summaries, journal entries, and/or case studies describing parent-teacher conferences and/or how student progress was reported

STANDARD 6: Professionalism

Standard 6.a. Engaging in Professional Development. Candidates engage in professional development opportunities that strengthen their own linguistic and cultural competence and promote reflection on practice.

Standard 6.b. Knowing the Value of Foreign Language Learning. Candidates know the value of foreign language learning to the overall success of all students and understand that they will need to become advocates with students, colleagues, and members of the community to promote the field.

Standard 6.a. Engaging in Professional Development. Candidates engage in professional development opportunities that strengthen their own linguistic and cultural competence and promote reflection on practice.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates understand the importance and benefits of belonging to a professional community. They are aware that there are different communities that support them in different ways at various points in their careers. More importantly, they understand that professional development is a life-long endeavor and an indispensable asset to becoming a contributing member of the profession. Professional development may include such activities as participating in conferences and workshops, reading professional journals, and linking theory and practice by systematically reflecting on teaching, learning and assessment. Candidates believe that it is their responsibility to seek counsel from mentors as to which organizations might be most appropriate for their specific needs. Candidates develop the ability to reflect on the outcomes of their involvement in these professional

communities and on how their continued participation will strengthen their own linguistic and cultural competence and refine their pedagogical practices. They understand the importance of seeking professional growth.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Awareness of professional community	Candidates identify appropriate professional communities.	Candidates identify and participate in at least one professional organization.	Candidates identify and participate in multiple professional communities.
Life-long commitment to professional growth	Candidates articulate the need for ongoing professional development.	Candidates identify immediate professional development needs.	Candidates outline a process for identifying ongoing professional development needs and the potential providers (e.g., state organization) to meet these needs.
Reflection as a critical tool for growth	Candidates recognize the potential of reflection and research as essential tools for becoming an effective practitioner. They rely on others' questions to frame reflection.	Candidates frame their own reflection and research questions and show evidence of engaging in a reflective process to improve teaching and learning.	Candidates systematically engage in a reflective process for analyzing student work and planning future instruction. They identify possibilities of classroom-based research to inform practice.
Dispositions for seeking professional growth	Candidates often respond to the suggestions that others make regarding candidates' own professional growth.	Candidates seek opportunities for professional growth.	Candidates develop a plan for their continued professional growth.

Standard 6.b. Knowing the Value of Foreign Language Learning. Candidates know the value of foreign language learning to the overall success of all students and understand that they will need to become advocates with students, colleagues, and members of the community to promote the field.

Supporting Explanation

Candidates believe that all students can benefit from language study. They develop and learn how to articulate a rationale for the importance of foreign languages in the overall curriculum. Candidates learn how to access relevant data to support this position and make a case for foreign language programs that offer a variety of language options and engage all students. They can articulate the multiple benefits of foreign language learning and can communicate these messages to multiple audiences. Candidates understand the importance of building ongoing alliances with all stakeholders to promote the goal of language learning for all K-12 students and know how to incorporate diverse viewpoints into advocacy messages.

Elements	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Development of a rationale for foreign language learning	Candidates realize the importance of developing a rationale that supports foreign language learning.	Candidates develop a rationale that includes key benefits of foreign language learning.	Candidates develop and articulate a rationale for foreign language learning that includes the cognitive, academic, and affective benefits to students and society.
Accessing and employing data to support foreign language learning	Candidates identify the main data sources (both print and online) for accessing foreign language-specific data.	Candidates choose appropriate data sources to develop products in support of foreign language learning for designated audiences.	Candidates access multiple sources of data and synthesize findings to prepare a coherent rationale for foreign language learning for diverse audiences.
The importance of building alliances for advocacy	Candidates understand the importance of networks and the role they play in advocacy efforts.	Candidates provide evidence of the importance of building alliances to advocate for K-12 foreign language learning.	Candidates demonstrate evidence that they have initiated efforts to collaborate with colleagues and other stakeholders to advocate for K-12 foreign language learning.
Dispositions regarding the value of K-12 language study	Candidates believe that foreign language study benefits mostly a particular group of students.	Based on readings and field experiences, candidates believe that all students should have opportunities to learn a foreign language.	Candidates advocate for K-12 foreign language opportunities for all students.

Sample Candidate Evidence For Standard 6

- ✓ List of professional membership(s) and evidence of participation
- ✓ Description of professional activities in which the candidate has participated and benefits to candidate (e.g., workshop/conference attendance)
- ✓ List of research questions that the candidate has at this point in career
- ✓ A professional development plan
- ✓ List of sources for accessing data foreign-language specific data (e.g., types of programs offered across state/nation, student enrollment figures)
- ✓ Philosophy statement, position paper, or simulated presentation to the school board, community members, and/or other stakeholders, to demonstrate advocacy for foreign language learning

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Appendix A

ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners

NOVICE LEARNER RANGE (Grade K-4, Grade 5-8, Grade 9-10)

COMPREHENSIBILITY: How well are they understood?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Rely primarily on memorized phrases and short sentences during highly predictable interactions on very familiar topics;
- ▶ Are understood primarily by those very accustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Imitate modeled words and phrases using intonation and pronunciation similar to that of the model;
- ▶ May show evidence of false starts, prolonged and unexpectedly-placed pauses and recourse to their native language as topics expand beyond the scope of immediate needs;
- ▶ Are able to meet limited practical writing needs, such as short messages and notes, by recombining learned vocabulary and structure to form simple sentences on very familiar topics.

Presentational

- ▶ Use short, memorized phrases and sentences in oral and written presentations;
- ▶ Are understood primarily by those who are very accustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Demonstrate some accuracy in pronunciation and intonation when presenting well-rehearsed material on familiar topics;
- ▶ May show evidence of false starts, prolonged and unexpectedly-placed pauses, and recourse to their native language as topics expand beyond the scope of immediate needs;
- ▶ Show abilities in writing by reproducing familiar material
- ▶ Rely heavily on visuals to enhance comprehensibility in both oral and written presentations.

COMPREHENSION: How well do they understand?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Comprehend general information and vocabulary when the communication partner uses objects, visuals, and gestures in speaking or writing;
- ▶ Generally need contextual clues, redundancy, paraphrase or restatement in order to understand the message.

Interpretive

- ▶ Understand short, simple conversations and narratives (live and recorded material), within highly predictable and familiar contexts;
- ▶ Rely on personal background experience to assist in comprehension;
- ▶ Exhibit increased comprehension when constructing meaning through recognition of key words or phrases embedded in familiar contexts;
- ▶ Comprehend written and spoken language better when content has been previously presented in an oral and/or visual context;
- ▶ Determine meaning by recognition of cognates, prefixes, and thematic vocabulary.

LANGUAGE CONTROL: How accurate is their language?***Interpersonal***

- ▶ Comprehend messages that include predominately familiar grammatical structures;
- ▶ Are most accurate when communicating about very familiar topics using memorized oral and written phrases;
- ▶ Exhibit decreased accuracy when attempting to create with the language;
- ▶ Write with accuracy when copying written language but may use invented spelling when writing words or producing characters on their own;
- ▶ May exhibit frequent errors in capitalization and punctuation when target language differs from native language in these areas.

Interpretive

- ▶ Recognize structural patterns in target language narratives and derive meaning from these structures within familiar contexts;
- ▶ Sometimes recognize previously learned structures when presented in new contexts.

Presentational

- ▶ Demonstrate some accuracy in oral and written presentations when reproducing memorized words, phrases and sentences in the target language;
- ▶ Formulate oral and written presentations using a limited range of simple phrases and expressions based on very familiar topics;
- ▶ Show inaccuracies and/or interference from the native language when attempting to communicate information which goes beyond the memorized or pre-fabricated;
- ▶ May exhibit frequent errors in capitalization and/or punctuation and/or production of characters when the writing system of the target language differs from the native language.

VOCABULARY USE: How extensive and applicable is their vocabulary?***Interpersonal***

- ▶ Comprehend and produce vocabulary that is related to everyday objects and actions on a limited number of familiar topics;
- ▶ Use words and phrases primarily as lexical items without awareness of grammatical structure;

- ▶ Recognize and use vocabulary from a variety of topics including those related to other curricular areas;
- ▶ May often rely on words and phrases from their native language when attempting to communicate beyond the word and/or gesture level.

Interpretive

- ▶ Recognize a variety of vocabulary words and expressions related to familiar topics embedded within relevant curricular areas;
- ▶ Demonstrate increased comprehension of vocabulary in spoken passages when these are enhanced by pantomime, props, and/or visuals;
- ▶ Demonstrate increased comprehension of written passages when accompanied by illustrations and other contextual clues.

Presentational

- ▶ Use a limited number of words and phrases for common objects and actions in familiar categories;
- ▶ Supplement their basic vocabulary with expressions acquired from sources such as the teacher or picture dictionaries;
- ▶ Rely on native language words and phrases when expressing personal meaning in less familiar categories.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES:

How do they maintain communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Attempt to clarify meaning by repeating words and occasionally selecting substitute words to convey their message;
- ▶ Primarily use facial expressions and gestures to indicate problems with comprehension.

Interpretive

- ▶ Use background experience to anticipate story direction in highly predictable oral or written texts;
- ▶ Rely heavily on visuals and familiar language to assist in comprehension.

Presentational

- ▶ Make corrections by repeating or rewriting when appropriate forms are routinely modeled by the teacher;
- ▶ Rely heavily on repetition, non-verbal expression (gestures, facial expressions), and visuals to communicate their message.

CULTURAL AWARENESS: How is their cultural understanding reflected in their communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Imitate culturally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic expressions;

- ▶ Use gestures and body language that are generally those of the student's own culture, unless they are incorporated into memorized responses.

Interpretive

- ▶ Understand both oral and written language that reflects a cultural background similar to their own;
- ▶ Predict a story line or event when it reflects a cultural background similar to their own.

Presentational

- ▶ Imitate the use of culturally appropriate vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and non-verbal behaviors modeled by the teacher.

**ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners
*INTERMEDIATE LEARNER RANGE***

COMPREHENSIBILITY: How well are they understood?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Express their own thoughts using sentences and strings of sentences when interacting on familiar topics in present time;
- ▶ Are understood by those accustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Use pronunciation and intonation patterns which can be understood by a native speaker accustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Make false starts and pause frequently to search for words when interacting with others;
- ▶ Are able to meet practical writing needs, such as short letters and notes, by recombining learned vocabulary and structures demonstrating full control of present time and evidence of some control of other time frames.

Presentational

- ▶ Express their own thoughts, describe and narrate, using sentences and strings of sentences, in oral and written presentations on familiar topics;
- ▶ Use pronunciation and intonation patterns that can be understood by those accustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Make false starts and pause frequently to search for words when interacting with others;
- ▶ Communicate oral and written information about familiar topics with sufficient accuracy that listeners and readers understand most of what is presented.

COMPREHENSION: How well do they understand?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Comprehend general concepts and messages about familiar and occasionally unfamiliar topics;
- ▶ May not comprehend details when dealing with unfamiliar topics;

- ▶ May have difficulty comprehending language supported by situational context.

Interpretive

- ▶ Understand longer, more complex conversations and narratives as well as recorded material in familiar contexts;
- ▶ Use background knowledge to comprehend simple stories, personal correspondence, and other contextualized print;
- ▶ Identify main ideas and some specific information on a limited number of topics found in the products of the target culture such as those presented on TV, radio, video or live and computer-generated presentations, although comprehension may be uneven;
- ▶ Determine meaning by using contextual clues;
- ▶ Are aided by the use of redundancy, paraphrase, and restatement in order to understand the message.

LANGUAGE CONTROL: How accurate is their language?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Comprehend messages that include some unfamiliar grammatical structures;
- ▶ Are most accurate when creating with the language about familiar topics in present time using simple sentences and/or strings of sentences;
- ▶ Exhibit a decline in grammatical accuracy as creativity in language production increases;
- ▶ Begin to apply familiar structures to new situations;
- ▶ Evidence awareness of capitalization and/or punctuation when writing in the target language;
- ▶ Recognize some of their own spelling or character production errors and make appropriate adjustments.

Interpretive

- ▶ Derive meaning by comparing target language structures with those of the native language;
- ▶ Recognize parallels between new and familiar structures in the target language;
- ▶ Understand high-frequency idiomatic expressions.

Presentational

- ▶ Formulate oral and written presentations on familiar topics, using a range of sentences and strings of sentences primarily in present time but also, with preparation, in past and future time.
- ▶ May show inaccuracies as well as some interference from the native language when attempting to present less familiar material;
- ▶ Exhibit fairly good accuracy in capitalization and punctuation (or production of characters) when target language differs from native language in these areas.

VOCABULARY USE: How extensive and applicable is their vocabulary?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Use vocabulary from a variety of thematic groups;

- ▶ Recognize and use vocabulary from a variety of topics including those related to other curricular areas;
- ▶ Show some understanding and use of common idiomatic expressions;
- ▶ May use false cognates or resort to their native language when attempting to communicate beyond the scope of familiar topics.

Interpretive

- ▶ Comprehend an expanded range of vocabulary;
- ▶ Frequently derive meaning of unknown words by using contextual clues;
- ▶ Demonstrate enhanced comprehension when listening to or reading content which has a recognizable format.

Presentational

- ▶ Demonstrate control of an expanding number of familiar words and phrases and of a limited number of idiomatic expressions;
- ▶ Supplement their basic vocabulary, for both oral and written presentations, with expressions acquired from other sources such as dictionaries;
- ▶ In speech and writing, may sometimes use false cognates and incorrectly applied terms, and show only partial control of newly acquired expressions.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES: How do they maintain communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ May use paraphrasing, question-asking, circumlocution, and other strategies to avoid a breakdown in communication;
- ▶ Attempt to self-correct primarily for meaning when communication breaks down.

Interpretive

- ▶ Identify the main idea of a written text by using reading strategies such as gleaning information from the first and last paragraphs;
- ▶ Infer meaning of many unfamiliar words that are necessary in order to understand the gist of an oral or written text;
- ▶ Use contextual clues to assist in comprehension.

Presentational

- ▶ Make occasional use of reference sources and efforts at self-correction to avoid errors likely to interfere with communication;
- ▶ Use circumlocution when faced with difficult syntactic structures, problematic spelling, or unfamiliar vocabulary;
- ▶ Make use of memory aids (such as notes and visuals) to facilitate presentations.

CULTURAL AWARENESS: How is their cultural understanding reflected in their communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Use some culturally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic expressions;
- ▶ Use some gestures and body language of the target culture.

Interpretive

- ▶ Use knowledge of their own culture and that of the target culture(s) to interpret oral or written texts more accurately;
- ▶ Recognize target culture influences in the products and practices of their own culture;
- ▶ Recognize differences and similarities in the perspectives of the target culture and their own;

Presentational

- ▶ Use some culturally appropriate vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and non-verbal behaviors;
- ▶ Demonstrate some cultural knowledge in oral and written presentations.

ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners***PRE-ADVANCED LEARNER RANGE******(Grade K-12)******COMPREHENSIBILITY: How well are they understood?******Interpersonal***

- ▶ Narrate and describe using connected sentences and paragraphs in present and other time frames when interacting in topics of personal, school, and community interest;
- ▶ Are understood by those with whom they interact, although there may still be a range of linguistic inaccuracies, and on occasion the communication partner may need to make a special effort to understand the message;
- ▶ Use pronunciation and intonation patterns that are understandable to a native speaker unaccustomed to interacting with language learners;
- ▶ Use language confidently and with ease, with few pauses;
- ▶ Are able to meet practical writing needs such as letters and summaries by writing descriptions and narrations of paragraph length and organization, showing sustained control of basic structures and partial control of more complex structures and time frames.

Presentational

- ▶ Report, narrate and describe, using connected sentences, paragraph-length and longer discourse, in oral and written presentations on topics of personal, school, and community interest;
- ▶ Use pronunciation and intonation patterns that are understood by native users of the language, although the listener/reader may on occasion need to make a special effort to understand the message;
- ▶ Use language confidently and with ease, with few pauses;
- ▶ Communicate with a fairly high degree of facility when making oral and written presentations about familiar and well-researched topics.

COMPREHENSION: How well do they understand?***Interpersonal***

- ▶ Comprehend main ideas and most details on a variety of topics beyond the immediate situation;
- ▶ Occasionally do not comprehend but usually are able to clarify details by asking questions;
- ▶ May encounter difficulty comprehending language dealing with abstract topics.

Interpretive

- ▶ Use knowledge acquired in other settings and from other curricular areas to comprehend both spoken and written messages;
- ▶ Understand main ideas and significant details on a variety of topics found in the products of the target culture such as those presented on TV, radio, video or live and computer-generated presentations, although comprehension may be uneven;
- ▶ Develop an awareness of tone, style and author perspective;
- ▶ Demonstrate a growing independence as a reader or listener and generally comprehend what they read and hear without relying solely on formally learned vocabulary.

LANGUAGE CONTROL: How accurate is their language?***Interpersonal***

- ▶ Comprehend messages that include unfamiliar grammatical structures;
- ▶ Are most accurate when narrating and describing in connected sentences and paragraphs in present time with decreasing accuracy in past and future times;
- ▶ May continue to exhibit inaccuracies as the amount and complexity of language increases;
- ▶ Communicate successfully by applying familiar structures to new situations;
- ▶ Rarely make errors in capitalization and in punctuation;
- ▶ Are generally accurate in spelling or production of characters.

Interpretive

- ▶ Deduce meaning in unfamiliar language passages by classifying words or concepts according to word order or grammatical use;
- ▶ Apply rules of language to construct meaning from oral and written texts;
- ▶ Understand idiomatic expressions;
- ▶ Move beyond literal comprehension toward more critical reading and listening.

Presentational

- ▶ Accurately formulate paragraph-length and longer oral and written presentations in present time, on topics of personal, school, community and global interest;
- ▶ May show some inaccuracies and/or interference from the native language when presentations deal with multiple time frames and/or other complex structures;
- ▶ Successfully communicate personal meaning by applying familiar structures to new situations and less familiar topics, and by integrating information from audio, visual, and written sources;

- ▶ Exhibit awareness of need for accuracy in capitalization and/or punctuation (or production of characters) when target language differs from native language in these areas.

VOCABULARY USE: How extensive and applicable is their vocabulary?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Understand and often use idiomatic and culturally authentic expressions;
- ▶ Recognize and use vocabulary from a variety of topics including those related to other curricular areas;
- ▶ Use more specialized and precise vocabulary terms within a limited number of topics.

Interpretive

- ▶ Comprehend a wide range of vocabulary in both concrete and abstract contexts;
- ▶ Infer meaning of both oral and written texts by recognizing familiar words and phrases in new contexts;
- ▶ Use context to deduce meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary;
- ▶ Recognize and understand the cultural context of many words and phrases.

Presentational

- ▶ Demonstrate control of an extensive vocabulary, including a number of idiomatic and culturally authentic expressions, from a variety of topics;
- ▶ Supplement their basic vocabulary by using resources such as textbooks and dictionaries;
- ▶ May use more specialized and precise terms when dealing with specific topics that have been researched.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES: How do they maintain communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Are able to sustain an interaction with a native speaker by using a variety of strategies when discussion topics relate to personal experience or immediate needs;
- ▶ Show evidence of attention to mechanical errors even when these may not interfere with communication.

Interpretive

- ▶ Use background knowledge to deduce meaning and to understand complex information in oral or written texts;
- ▶ Identify the organizing principle(s) of oral or written texts;
- ▶ Infer and interpret the intent of the writer.

Presentational

- ▶ Demonstrate conscious efforts at correct formulation and self-correction by use of self-editing and of reference sources;
- ▶ Sustain length and continuity of presentations by appropriate use of strategies such as simplification, reformulation, and circumlocution;

- ▶ Make use of a variety of resource materials and presentation methods to enhance presentations.

CULTURAL AWARENESS: How is their cultural awareness reflected in their communication?

Interpersonal

- ▶ Use culturally appropriate vocabulary and idioms;
- ▶ Use appropriate gestures and body language of the target culture.

Interpretive

- ▶ Apply understanding of the target culture to enhance comprehension of oral and written texts'
- ▶ Recognize the reflections of practices, products, and/or perspectives of the target cultures(s) in oral and written texts;
- ▶ Analyze and evaluate cultural stereotypes encountered in oral and written texts.

Presentational

- ▶ Demonstrate increased use of culturally appropriate vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and non-verbal behaviors;
- ▶ Use language increasingly reflective of authentic cultural practices and perspectives.

From *ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners*. (1998). Yonkers, NY: The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.