The Department of Languages, Philosophy & Communication Studies – UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

12/2016

THE OPI TEST INFORMATION SHEET:

All Majors and Minors graduating with Teaching Licensure or DLI Endorsement must take the OPI Test. It is a State of Utah requirement therefore it is a USU mandated requirement to get into the SCED STEP and DLI endorsement programs.

Please view these OPI videos to help you prepare for the OPI test –
https://youtu.be/dfMQU8-_Mps
Four Phases of the OPI --
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6Qv32xlNhs&feature=youtu.be
How to Pass The OPI --

There are important changes when you take the OPI test. Suzann Winn is no longer the proctor for the OPI testing at USU. LTI has decided to do Web-based Proctoring. This means a student can take the test anywhere – as long as you have a web-cam or web-cam computer and a land-line phone in a quiet controlled room. Controlled means – no language papers, books, cell phones or other electronic devices in that room.

- You will set up testing with LTI on-line.
- They will send you a link for the web-cam proctor and the phone number for the land-line phone.
- On the appointed day, 20 minutes before you call your tester you will pull up the web-cam link on your computer so LTI can do verifications of your identity and the conditions of the room you are in.
- Then 2 minutes before the appointed testing time you will call the tester’s number on your land-line phone.

We strongly encourage all Teaching majors and minors to take OPI test as soon as possible in their program and especially after a study abroad or immersion experience.

TEACHING MAJORS and TEACHING MINORS: The School of Teacher Education and Leadership requires a language teaching major to pass with an ADVANCED LOW LEVEL prior to admission into the Secondary Education Program.

Definition of ADVANCED LOW LEVEL:

- Speakers at the Advanced-Low level are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks, although somewhat haltingly at times. They participate actively in most informal and limited number of formal conversations on activities related to school, home, and leisure activities and, to a lesser degree, those related to events of work, current, public, and personal interest or individual relevance.
- Advanced-Low speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in all major time frames (past, present and future) in paragraph length discourse, but control of aspect may be lacking at times. They can handle appropriately the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar, though at times their discourse may be minimal for the level and strained. Communicative strategies such as rephrasing and circumlocution may be employed in such instances. In their narrations and descriptions, they combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length. When pressed for a fuller account, they tend to grope and rely on minimal discourse. Their utterances are typically not longer than a single paragraph. Structure of the dominant language is still evident in the use of false cognates, literal translations, or the oral paragraph structure of the speaker’s own language rather than that of the target language.
- Advanced-Low speakers contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion, and it can be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even through this may be achieved through repetition and restatement. When attempting to perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the linguistic quality and quantity of their speech will deteriorate significantly.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION (DLI) ENDORSEMENT: The School of Teacher Education and Leadership requires a DLI Endorsement student to pass with at least an ADVANCED LOW LEVEL in order to start the DLI track in the Secondary Education Program. However, an OPI score of ADVANCED MID LEVEL is required in order for the student to student teach in a DLI classroom and to earn the DLI Endorsement through the Utah State Office of Education. Students are allowed entry into the DLI track with an Advanced-low score so that they have the opportunity to continue their language development during the program.

Definition of ADVANCED MID LEVEL:

- Speakers at the Advanced-mid level are able to handle with ease and confidence a large number of communicative tasks. 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 or individual relevance.
Advanced-Mid speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in all major time frames (past, present, and future) by providing a full account, with good control of aspect, as they adapt flexibly to demands of the conversation. Narration and description tend to be combined and interwoven to relate relevant and supporting facts in connected, paragraph-length discourse.

Advanced-Mid speakers can handle successfully and with relative ease the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar. Communicative strategies such as circumlocution or rephrasing are often employed for this purpose. The speech of Advanced-Mid speakers performing Advanced-level tasks is marked by substantial flow. Their vocabulary is fairly extensive although primarily generic in nature, except in the case of a particular area of specialization or interest. Dominant language discourse structures tend to recede, although discourse may still reflect the oral paragraph structure of their own language rather than that of the target language.

Advanced-Mid speakers contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics, dealt with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision, and they convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion. They are readily understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives. When called onto perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the quality and/or quantity of their speech will generally decline. Advanced-Mid speakers are often able to state an opinion or cite conditions; however, they lack the ability to consistently provide a structured argument in extended discourse. Advanced-Mid speakers may use a number of delaying strategies, reSort to narration, description, explanation or anecdote, or simply attempt to avoid the linguistic demands of Superior-level tasks.

**COST**

The cost for the test will be around $159. LTI will charge approximately $139 for the test and $20 for the Web-based proctor fee -- you will pay when you complete the application on-line, see below.

**Setting up the test:** You, the student, sets up the test. It needs to be set up on-line with the LTI-ACTFL Language Testing Office at [http://languagetesting.com/](http://languagetesting.com/).

If you are a new user -- you are not set up as a “Client” through LTI - Language Testing International and you are ready to set up your test time -- follow these directions:

- At the top – Click – “SIGN IN” at the top of the website page
- If you are brand new and not already set up as a client – Click – “Test Candidate”
- If you are Testing for a school or for a teaching license – Click – “Click Here” under that option
  - Or the other if you want “Advance your career etc.”
- On This page – “Register for a Test/Login to your Account” – Go to New Users and – Click – “Buy a Test”
- “Let’s Get Started” page read and – Click – “Get Started”
- They will ask “Are you testing for State Teacher Certification?” – Click yes or no. If yes –
- They will ask “Which State Teaching License are you applying for?” – Find the state and then it will ask “Select Teacher Candidate Program” – click down arrow and select “I am not associated with any Program” – Click—Continue
- There is a “Welcome Page – read and then – Click – “Continue”
- “Select Language” page – select your language and then – Click – “Continue”
- Here is the “Select Test” page – Click box – ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) – cost $139.00 – Click – “Continue” (that is the test USU is accepting at this time)
- “What is a Proctor?” page – Click – Circle that says “Web-based Proctoring” – Click – “Continue”
- Here is “Select Date & Time” page – with down arrow choose “(UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)” and then Pick two dates at least 10 days from now and a time range of at least 3 hours --- you will put in First  and Second Available Date & Time --- Click – “Continue”
- For an extra $50 you can ask for an “Express” test option or – Click – “Continue”
- “Payment and Account Information” page – put in your information and then your payment information, they will charge $139 on your account and $20 for the Web-based proctor fee -- finish as they request.
- Within 10 days they usually set up the test and contact you with the information necessary for the Web-based proctor link for your computer with a web-cam and the phone number you need to call from a land-line phone. Those two items plus a quiet controlled room are required in order to do the Web-based proctor – OPI test.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

If you have to take the test again

- You are welcome to talk to your faculty advisor, to get advice how you can improve and achieve the required level with your next test.
- The ACTFL policy requires each test taker to wait at least 90 days between test taking Occurrences (retesting) of the ACTFL OPI and WPT.
- If you need to take the test prior to the 90 days, you will need to request a one-time waiver.
- In order to request a 90 day waiver please submit for another test and mark waiver of 90 day requirement
- After the waiver test, candidates can take the exam as many times as they wish you will just have to wait 90 days between tests.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions you might have.

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