

VSBE

Date: Nov. 19, 2024

Item: Modern and Classical Language Testing Policies Revisions

Proposed: Shall the VSBE approve the revisions to Policy G2 and Policy N16 as proposed?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBE approve the revisions to Policy G2 and Policy N16 as proposed.

BACKGROUND:

Recently, Middlebury Language Schools' programs for Modern and Classical Languages (MCL) were approved, and the licensure officer from that program did a thorough review of the testing policies and brought some questions about them to the Office. The ROPA Coordinator scheduled a meeting with all programs that currently have approved MCL programs; this meeting was attended by Stephanie Ratmeyer and Patrick Halladay from UVM, Amy Saks Pavese from St. Michael's, Ellen Emery from TAP, and Thor Sawin from Middlebury. We all reviewed the proposed clarifications and came to a consensus that these revisions are recommended by all representatives.

The VSBE approved the first reading of these policy revisions on Oct. 16, 2024.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Current Policy G2:

Policy on Modern/Classical Language(s) - Native Speakers

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish the testing and degree requirements of native speakers seeking to attain the initial Level I license with the Modern and Classical Language endorsement and when seeking to add the Modern and Classical Language endorsement.

Native speakers seeking the initial Level I license with the Modern and Classical Languages endorsement and those seeking to add the Modern and Classical Languages endorsement who seek exception from the requirement of a major in a modern or classical language, or the equivalent in undergraduate and/or graduate coursework must document proficiency in the target language. The documentation shall be an evaluation score of Advanced-Mid level or higher on the ACTFL assessment.

Adopted: 9/8/94; Reviewed: 3/20/15, 10/11/19

Proposed Revised Policy G2:

Policy on Modern/Classical Language(s) - Native Speakers

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish the testing and degree requirements for native speakers (those who primarily spoke the language from early childhood on) seeking to attain the initial Level I license with the Modern and Classical Language endorsement and when seeking to add the Modern and Classical Language endorsement.

This policy is for native or early childhood-acquired speakers who are:

- seeking the initial Level I license with the Modern and Classical Languages endorsement OR
- seeking to add the Modern and Classical Languages endorsement

If such students seek exception from the requirement of:

- having a major in a modern or classical language OR
- the equivalent in undergraduate and/or graduate coursework,

they must document their proficiency in the target language.

For Category I or II languages for which there are no Praxis Subject Assessment the documentation shall be an evaluation score of Advanced-Mid level or higher on the [ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview \(OPI\) AND Writing Proficiency Test \(WPT\)](#) assessments or their equivalent on a professionally-validated proficiency exam ([Stamp 4S Test 8 or higher](#) in all 4 skills; CEFR in all 4 skills B2.2 or higher)

For (Category III or IV languages for which there is no Praxis Subject Assessment the documentation shall be an evaluation score of Intermediate-High level or higher on the ACTFL **OPI AND WPT** assessments or their equivalent on a professionally-validated proficiency exam ([Stamp 4S Test 6 or higher](#) in all 4 skills; CEFR in all 4 skills B1.2 or higher; [AAPL I-5 or A-1](#)).

Language category information can be found at [Languages \(state.gov\)](#).

Adopted: 9/8/94; Reviewed: 3/20/15, 10/11/19

Current Policy N16 with suggested addition in red

Policy on Recommending Foreign Language Candidates In Alternate, Undergraduate, Post-Baccalaureate, And Graduate Degree Foreign Language Programs

To promote a greater diversity of languages taught in Vermont schools, the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators encourages approved post-baccalaureate, alternate routes, and graduate programs in foreign language to recommend qualified candidates in a wide variety of foreign languages. The Board will approve post-baccalaureate and graduate degree programs for all modern and classical languages because candidates who are entering these preparation programs have already mastered their target language. **This mastery can be demonstrated by any of the following language tests: Praxis II, ACTFL, Avant STAMP 4S, or by an alternative to those tests per Policy N24, Multiple Measures for Praxis Examinations.** The Board recommends that all candidates entering post-baccalaureate, graduate, and alternate route foreign language programs meet the testing requirements in their target language prior to admission in order to demonstrate proficiency.

This approval will be issued only if candidates complete student teaching in the language of the endorsement sought. During Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) Review Visits, review teams will carefully assess preparation programs' entry requirements and processes in addition to the candidates' education coursework and field experiences.

Undergraduate preparation programs will continue to be approved for specific languages only. This enables program review teams to assess candidates' preparation in their target languages by reviewing undergraduate coursework.

Adopted: 4/30/09, Revised 5/1/2018

Also, this document is included for your information, though it does not need Board approval to be revised:

DEFINITIONS OF PROFICIENCY FOR ACTFL AND ASLTA LANGUAGE

TESTING (this is not a policy and this does not need VSBPE approval, but needs to be updated on the AOE website)

<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-educator-quality-testing-proficiency-definition.pdf>

Beginning in October 2005, individuals seeking licensure or additional endorsement in French, Spanish, **Latin** German, **Chinese, Russian, and Japanese** shall demonstrate proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and aural comprehension in the language via passage of the **Praxis II Subject Assessment** examinations in productive language and content knowledge for the appropriate language. (Please refer to <https://praxis.ets.org/storehome.html> for more information.) **Latin will also most likely require Praxis II by October 2005.** However, for languages other than those listed above, an ACTFL-trained tester in the target language shall evaluate proficiency. (Please contact actfl.org for more information on ACTFL proficiency testing.) **For languages using the Roman alphabet (Category I or II languages)** the documentation shall be an evaluation score of Advanced-Mid level or higher on the ACTFL **OPI AND WPT** assessments or their equivalent on a professionally-validated proficiency exam (Praxis Subject Assessment FR, GE, SP; **Stamp 4S Test 8 or higher** in all 4 skills; CEFR in all 4 skills B2.2 or higher; MTEL).

For languages not using the Roman alphabet (Category III or IV languages), the documentation shall be an evaluation score of Intermediate-high level or higher on the **ACTFL OPI AND WPT** assessments or their equivalent on a professionally-validated

proficiency exam (Praxis Subject Assessment CH, JP, RU; [Stamp 4S Test 6 or higher](#) in all 4 skills; CEFR in all 4 skills B1.2 or higher; [AAPL I-5 or A-1](#); MTEL).