

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIc) Teacher Licensure Requirement for Spanish, French, German

To obtain licensure in Spanish, French, or German, candidates need to take an official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Consult with faculty and decide on a timeline before signing up for this test. The main point: You need to prove an oral proficiency level of Advanced Low before your student teaching semester.

To do so, you need to...

- Test with Language Testing International (LTI), the provider of ACTFL OPIs.
- Print out your certificate (issued by LTI) documenting your proficiency level is Advanced Low
- Submit this certificate to the Department of World Languages & Cultures before student teaching.

For the most common questions, see

https://tms.languagetesting.com/IndividualSite/Download/FAQ_Doc.pdf

For more information on the ACTFL proficiency scale, see

<https://www.languagetesting.com/actfl-proficiency-scale>

For a description of the different levels, see

https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf

Characteristics of Advanced Low are on page 6.

Read the **Questions and Answers** on this flyer carefully.

Questions & Answers

Q: What's the difference between the traditional OPI and the OPIc?

In the traditional live OPI, you...

- Speak over the telephone, with an ACTFL certified tester.
- Speak for about 20-30 minutes (approximate time for intermediate to advanced level).
- Use my landline in Coleman Hall and a proctor (I serve as proctor at EIU).
- Pay \$139 when registering on LTI website.

In the OPIc, you...

- Do not speak with a live tester.
- Conduct a virtual conversation, using a computer.
- Listen/speak etc using a headset.
- Answer some pre-testing questions so LTI can activate the correct testing program ("Form"). Therefore, the OPIc can take a bit longer (40-45 minutes) than the traditional "live" OPI.
- Pay \$70 or \$105 (depending on the proctoring option you choose) when registering on LTI website.

Q: Are both formats approved for teacher licensure candidates?

Yes, both formats are approved. Language Testing International (LTI) is the provider for BOTH formats, OPI and OPIc. Whatever format you select, you need to go through and register for the test with LTI.

Q: What proficiency level will I need to prove? Can I retake it?

Advanced Low. You need to retake the OPIc or OPI if you do not reach that level. ACTFL Retest Policy requires a wait time of 90 days between retakes (a one-time waiver of the 90-day wait time is permitted). Consult with faculty on when best to take your OPI. In general, it is best to take it soon after your study abroad semester.

Ready to register? Do this...

- (1) Go to <https://www.languageTesting.com/lti-for-organizations/academic>
- (2) Click in upper right corner: "Search for your institution or school program"
- (3) Are you testing for state certification? Click: Yes
- (4) Select state: Illinois (from drop-down menu)
- (5) Enter Institution Name: Eastern Illinois University.
- (6) Select Language: Select your language from drop-down menu. Continue.
- (7) Select: Live Speaking Test **or** OPIc. **See Q & A above.**

Want the traditional OPI (live speaking) format?

Select "Live Speaking Test." Continue.

Click: EIU

Price: \$ 139 (proctoring at EIU is free).

Indicate two available dates and 3-hour time windows for each (at least 10 days ahead)

Important: Your EIU proctor needs to be available too. Do not indicate any dates/times without having talked with your EIU proctor first.

Want the OPIc format?

Select "Oral Proficiency Interview on Computer." Continue.

Answer the self-assessment questions. *Tip: You will usually end up in Category (Form) 3 or 4. Continue.*

Pick your **proctoring option (1) or (2)**:

(1) At EIU (\$70; no proctoring fee applies)

or

(2) Web-based proctoring (\$70 plus \$35 remote proctoring fee; Total: \$105)

Q: What's the difference between the two proctoring options?

Option (1): Take the test at EIU and use computer in the department.

What to do...

- Register with LTI (website).
- Choose OPIc and EIU proctoring. You do not have to indicate a day & time when to take the test.
- Pay \$70
- Arrange a day and time with me (your proctor).
- Come to my office on the agreed upon day and time. I will enter your test code.
- Do the interview using my computer.

Option (2): Take the test remotely and use your laptop/home computer.

What to do...

- Register with LTI (website).
- Choose OPIc and remote (web-based) proctoring.*
- Pay \$70 plus \$35 remote proctoring fee (Total \$105)
- Take it at your convenience. Follow LTI instructions.

* "Web-Based proctoring allows you to take almost all ACTFL assessments from your own home, 24x7 - all you need is a computer with a webcam, so that the proctor can check your ID, help you access the test, and then monitor the area to make sure the test is taken in a secure environment." (LTI)

Questions?

Christiane Eydt-Beebe

Chair of the Department of World Languages & Cultures

Eastern Illinois University

ckeydt@eiu.edu