

## How to Arrange for ACTFL Proficiency Tests

Online: Go to [www.languageesting.com](http://www.languageesting.com) to request or download information about scheduling a test

Email: Send an email message to [admin@languageesting.com](mailto:admin@languageesting.com)

Telephone: Call 1-800-486-8444, Ext. 310

### ACTFL

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. ACTFL is an individual membership organization of more than 10,500 foreign language educators and administrators from elementary through graduate education, as well as government and industry.

### CAEP

CAEP advances excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. More than 900 educator preparation providers will initially participate in the CAEP accreditation system, which serves all providers currently accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). Educator preparation providers include traditional institutions of higher education, as well as alternative pathways such as residency programs. CAEP determines which educator preparation programs meet rigorous national standards in preparing teachers and other classroom specialists. Functioning as the profession's quality control mechanism for teacher preparation, CAEP is a coalition of 34 national education organizations, which represents teachers, teacher educators, subject matter specialists, and policymakers.



### American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

LTI: The ACTFL Testing Office  
445 Hamilton Ave, Suite 1104

White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 963-7110

Fax: (914) 963-7113

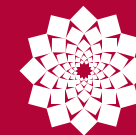
E-mail: [info@languageesting.com](mailto:info@languageesting.com)

[www.languageesting.com](http://www.languageesting.com)

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*Demonstrating Language Proficiency to Meet Educator Preparation Program Standards in Foreign Languages*



AMERICAN  
COUNCIL  
ON THE TEACHING  
OF FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES



## Proficiency Testing for ACTFL/CAEP Standards

### ACTFL OPI®

Oral Proficiency Interview

### ACTFL OPic®

Oral Proficiency Interview  
by computer

### ACTFL WPT

Writing Proficiency Test

### ACTFL AL Check

Advanced Level Check



## CAEP Accreditation Process

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation process establishes rigorous standards for educator preparation providers, holds accredited institutions accountable for meeting these standards, and encourages unaccredited providers to demonstrate the quality of their programs by working for and achieving professional accreditation.

In CAEP's performance-based accreditation system, educator preparation providers must provide evidence of competent teacher candidate performance. CAEP-accredited providers are expected to ensure that teacher candidates know their subject and how to teach it effectively.

CAEP's State Partnership and Content Areas Committee has approved teacher preparation program standards for 25 program areas. These standards were developed by professional associations that are constituent members of CAEP. ACTFL® is the Specialized Professional Association representing the foreign language specialty area.

Information about ACTFL/CAEP standards for foreign language programs can be found at:

[www.actfl.org/professional-development/actfl-caep](http://www.actfl.org/professional-development/actfl-caep)

### Standard 1.a. : Demonstrating Language Proficiency (Speaking & Writing)

**Speaking:** 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 (Revised 2012)*.

*\*The expected level of oral proficiency for teacher candidates is contingent on the specific target language as well as the native language. Teachers of languages such as French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish (Group I, II, and III languages on the FSI scale) must speak at a minimum level of Advanced Low. Candidates who teach Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (Group IV languages on the FSI scale) must speak at a minimum level of Intermediate High.*

## Spoken Language Proficiency can be demonstrated through one of four options:

### Speaking Option 1: Official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)®

**Description:** This is an Official ACTFL OPI arranged through the ACTFL Testing Office. This 20-30 minute interview is conducted telephonically by an ACTFL Certified Tester. The interview is independently rated by a minimum of two ACTFL Testers or Raters and an Official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Certificate, stating the candidate's proficiency level, is issued to the candidate.

**Languages:** Afrikaans, Akan-Twi, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Baluchi, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Cebuano, Czech, Dari, Dutch, English, French, Ga, Georgian, German, Greek (Modern), Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hmong-Mong, Hungarian, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Kashmiri, Kazakh, Kikongo-Kongo, Korean, Krio, Kurdish, Lao, Malay, Malayalam, Mandarin, Mandingo-Bambara, Nepali, Pashto, Persian-Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian/Croatian, Sindhi, Sinhalese, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Tausug, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Turkmen, Uighur, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Wolof, Wu and Yoruba. New languages are added regularly, please visit [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com) for a current list of languages.

### Speaking Option 2: Official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - computer (OPIC)®

**Description:** The ACTFL OPIC is a test of spoken language proficiency that replicates the OPI, but is internet-based and can be delivered on demand. The OPIC is individualized to the test taker and designed to elicit a 15-30 minute sample of ratable speech delivered via the internet. The OPIC provides ratings across the full range of the ACTFL Scale, from Novice through Superior. For those candidates who need only to demonstrate minimum working proficiency, ACTFL offers the OPIC to Advanced, a truncated version of the ACTFL OPIC, which assesses proficiency from Novice through baseline Advanced. For both the OPIC and the OPIC to Advanced, the candidate's digitally-recorded speech sample is independently rated by a minimum of two ACTFL Certified Raters and an Official ACTFL OPIC Certificate is issued.

**Languages:** The OPIC is currently available in Arabic, English, French, German, Korean, Mandarin, Pashto, Persian-Farsi, Russian and Spanish.

### Speaking Option 3: Official ACTFL Advanced Level Check (AL)✓

**Description:** This Advanced Level Check is a truncated version of an OPI that determines whether the candidate meets the CAEP standard of Advanced Low. The interview is conducted telephonically by an ACTFL Certified Tester, and independently rated by a minimum of two ACTFL Certified Raters. An Official ACTFL Advanced Level Check Certificate is issued to those candidates who meet the Advanced Low level of speaking proficiency.



**Languages:** Currently available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

### Speaking Option 4: Official ACTFL OPI through an Academic Institutional Upgrade

**Description:** This is an OPI conducted by an ACTFL Certified Tester for a student within the tester's own academic institution. The sample is then forwarded to the ACTFL Testing Office to be independently rated by a minimum of two ACTFL Certified Raters and an Official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Certificate is issued to the candidate.

**Languages:** Please visit [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com) for a current list of available languages.

**Writing:** For Writing, candidates are expected to demonstrate a specific level of proficiency\*\* as described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Writing (Revised 2012)*.

**\*\* For target languages that use the Roman alphabet (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish), the expected level of writing proficiency is Advanced Low. For languages that use a non-Roman alphabet (Arabic, Hebrew, Korean, Russian) or characters (Chinese, Japanese), the expected level of writing proficiency is Intermediate High.**

## Written Language Proficiency can be demonstrated through the following option:

### Writing Proficiency Test/Business Writing Test (WPT/BWT)

**Description:** This is a proctored, standardized test for the global assessment of functional writing ability, measuring how well a person writes in a language by comparing his/her performance of specific writing tasks with the criteria stated in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Writing (Revised 2012). Tests are independently rated by a minimum of two ACTFL Certified Raters and an Official ACTFL WPT Certificate is issued to the candidate.

**Languages:** Currently available in Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek (Modern), Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian-Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian-Croatian, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

New languages are developed regularly; please visit [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com) for a current list of languages.