CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 8. COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

§ 80033. Intern Teaching Credentials

(a) The Commission may issue the following types of multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist instruction intern credentials:

(1) University intern credentials pursuant to Education Code section 44452.

(2) District intern credentials pursuant to Education Code section 44325.

(b) Support and Supervision.

(1) Intern programs are a partnership between the Commission approved program sponsor and the California employing agency that elects to employ an individual on the basis of an intern credential. Prior to an intern teacher assuming daily teaching responsibilities, a signed Memorandum of Understanding must be in place between the Commission approved program sponsor and the California employing agency detailing the support and supervision that will be provided.

(2) The Commission approved program sponsor in cooperation with the California employing agency shall counsel the intern candidate and develop a plan to complete the requirements to earn a credential in the content or specialty area(s) of the intern credential. The Commission approved program sponsor, employing agency, and the intern teacher shall concur on the program planned.

(3) Prior to an intern teacher assuming daily teaching responsibilities, the California employing agency must identify a mentor for the intern teacher that possesses a valid, corresponding life or clear teaching credential and a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience.

(4) A minimum of 144 hours of support/mentoring and supervision shall be provided to each intern teacher per school year to coach, model, and demonstrate within the classroom, and to assist with course planning and problem-solving regarding students, curriculum, and effective teaching methodologies. The minimum support/mentoring and supervision provided to an intern teacher who assumes daily teaching responsibilities after the beginning of a school year shall be equal to 4 hours times the number of instructional weeks remaining in the school year. A minimum of two hours of support/mentoring and supervision shall be provided to an intern teacher every five instructional days.

(5) The following additional support/mentoring and supervision shall be provided to an intern teacher who enters the program without a valid English learner authorization listed on a previously issued multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist instruction teaching credential; a valid English learner authorization or CLAD Certificate issued pursuant to section 80015; or a valid bilingual authorization issued pursuant to section 80015.1:

(A) The Commission approved program sponsor shall provide 45 hours of support/mentoring and supervision per school year, including in-classroom coaching, specific to the needs of English learners. The minimum support/mentoring and supervision provided to an intern teacher who assumes daily teaching responsibilities after the beginning of a school year shall be equal to five hours times the number of months remaining in the school year. The support/mentoring and supervision should be distributed in a manner that sufficiently supports the intern teacher's development of knowledge and skills in the instruction of English learners.

(B) The California employing agency shall identify an individual who will be immediately available to assist the intern teacher with planning lessons that are appropriately designed and differentiated for English learners, for assessing language needs and progress, and for support of language accessible instruction through in-classroom modeling and coaching as needed. The identified individual may be the same mentor assigned pursuant to (b)(3) provided the individual possesses an English learner authorization and will be immediately available to assist the intern teacher.

(C) An individual who passes the CTEL examinations specified in section 80015.3(b) prior or subsequent to the issuance of the intern credential may be exempted from the provisions of (b)(5)(A) and (b)(5)(B).

(c) The following are the minimum requirements for a university or district intern credential:

(1) A baccalaureate degree or higher degree, except in professional education, from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

(2) Meet the basic skills requirement as described in Education Code section 44252(b), unless exempt by statute or regulation.

(3) Demonstration of knowledge of the Constitution of the United States as provided in Education Code section 44335.

(4) Subject-matter knowledge.

(A) Multiple subject intern credential applicants shall meet this requirement as specified in section 80413(a)(5)(A).

(B) Single subject intern credential applicants shall meet this requirement as specified in section 80413(a)(5)(B).

(C) Education specialist instruction intern credential applicants shall meet this requirement as specified in section 80048.8(a)(4).

(5) Enrollment in a Commission approved program as follows:

(A) For the multiple subject and single subject university or district intern credential, a program based on the SB 2042 Multiple Subject and Single Subject Preliminary Credential Program (rev. 2/11/14), available on the Commission's website and hereby incorporated by reference, accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as specified in Education Code section 44373(c).

(B) For the education specialist instruction university or district intern credential, a program based on the Program Standards in section 80612 and the credential specific Teaching Performance Expectations in section 80613, and which has been accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as specified in Education Code section 44373(c).

(6) Completion of intern preservice preparation provided by a Commission approved program sponsor as detailed in (c)(5):

(7) Submission of an application form as defined in section 80001; the processing fee as specified in section 80487(a)(1); and fingerprint clearance as specified in section 80442.

(8) Recommendation from a Commission approved intern program as specified in Education Code section 44227(b).

(d) Intern credentials shall be issued with an English learner or bilingual authorization for applicants who meet the conditions specified in either (d)(1) or (d)(2).

(1) An English learner authorization for applicants who do not possess one of the following:

(A) a valid English learner authorization listed on a previously issued multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist instruction credential;

(B) a valid English learner authorization or CLAD Certificate issued pursuant to section 80015; or

(C) a valid bilingual authorization issued pursuant to section 80015.1.

(2) A bilingual authorization if requested by a Commission approved bilingual authorization program based on the Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Programs Leading to Bilingual Authorization (rev. 1/13), available on the Commission's website and hereby incorporated by reference, standards and procedures in sections 80615.1 – 80615.4 and accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as specified in Education Code section 44373(c).

(e) An intern credential shall be restricted to service with the California employing agency identified by the Commission approved program sponsor.

(f) Term.

(1) An intern credential issued pursuant to this section, except the education specialist instruction district intern credential, shall be initially issued for no more than two years.

(2) The education specialist instruction district intern credential shall be initially issued for no more than three years.

(g) Authorization.

(1) The following shall be listed on each intern credential: "This individual has completed the intern preservice preparation, which included specific instruction on the teaching of English learners, and is participating in a Commission approved intern preparation program. The individual must be supported by both the Commission approved program and the employer in the area(s) listed and in his/her work with English learners and must

make satisfactory progress toward program completion for the duration of the intern credential."

(2) The university intern credential authorizes the following:

(A) A multiple subject university intern credential authorizes the holder to provide the services specified in sections 80003(a) through (d) in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults.

(B) A single subject university intern credential authorizes the holder to teach the content area(s) listed on the document in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults as specified in sections 80004(a) through (e).

(C) An education specialist instruction university intern credential authorizes the holder to provide instructional services within the specialty area(s) listed as specified in section 80048.6(b).

(D) A university intern credential with an English learner authorization also authorizes the holder to provide instruction for English language development as defined in Education Code section 44253.2(a) and specially designed content instruction delivered in English as defined in Education Code section 44253.2(b) as follows:

1. Multiple subject: within the settings and grade levels specified in (g)(2)(A).

2. Single subject: within the content area(s) and grade levels specified in (g)(2)(B).

3. Education specialist instruction: within the specialty area(s) and grade/age levels listed on the intern credential as specified in section 80048.6(b).

(E) A university intern credential with a bilingual authorization also authorizes the holder to provide instructional services as defined in subsections (a) through (d) of Education Code section 44253.2 as follows:

1. Multiple subject: within the settings and grade levels specified in (g)(2)(A).

2. Single subject: within the content area(s) and grade levels specified in (g)(2)(B).

3. Education specialist instruction: within the specialty area(s) and grade/age levels listed on the intern credential as specified in section 80048.6(b).

(3) The district intern credential authorizes the following:

(A) A multiple subject district intern credential authorizes the holder to teach self-contained classes in grades kindergarten through eight.

(B) A single subject district intern credential authorizes the holder to teach departmentalized courses within the content area(s) listed on the document in grades six through twelve.

(C) An education specialist instruction district intern credential authorizes the holder to provide instructional services within the specialty area(s) listed as specified in section 80048.6(b).

(D) A district intern credential with an English learner authorization also authorizes the holder to provide instruction for English language development as defined in Education Code section 44253.2(a) and specially designed content instruction delivered in English as defined in Education Code section 44253.2(b) as follows:

1. Multiple subject: within the settings and grade levels specified in (g)(3)(A).

2. Single subject: within the content area(s) and grade levels specified in (g)(3)(B).

3. Education specialist instruction: within the specialty area(s) and grade/age levels listed on the intern credential as specified in section 80048.6(b).

(E) A district intern credential with a bilingual authorization also authorizes the holder to provide instructional services as defined in subsections (a) through (d) of Education Code section 44253.2 as follows:

1. Multiple subject: within the settings and grade levels specified in (g)(3)(A).

2. Single subject: within the content area(s) and grade levels specified in (g)(3)(B).

3. Education specialist instruction: within the specialty area(s) and grade/age levels listed on the intern credential as specified in section 80048.6(b).

Note: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(b), 44225(d), 44225(e), 44225(g), 44225(l), 44227(b), 44252(b), 44253.2(a), 44253.2(b), 44253.2(c), 44253.2(d), 44325, 44326, 44335, 44373(c), 44452, 44453, 44454, 44455, 44461, 44464 and 44465, Education Code.

80615. Bilingual Authorization Educator Preparation Program Definitions

Institutions seeking to prepare candidates for the Bilingual Authorization must align their program to meet the standards in sections 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3. Definitions in section 80607 and the following terms defined in this section shall apply to sections 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3.

(a) Bilingual Program Models: Various instructional programs that support emergent PK-12 bilingual students. These models can have different goals including but not limited to focusing on developing English proficiency or on developing bilingualism and/or biliteracy skills. Models can be categorized into four types: Developmental Bilingual Program, Dual Language Immersion Program, One-Way Immersion Program, and Transitional Bilingual Education.

(b) Concurrent Candidates: Candidates seeking to earn both a Preliminary teaching credential and a Bilingual Authorization as part of their initial preparation for the credential.

(c) Contrastive Analysis: The systematic study of a pair of languages with the purpose of identifying their structural differences and similarities.

(d) Cross-Linguistic Transfer: Language learners' use of linguistic knowledge of one of their languages to leverage the learning of another language.

(e) Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Learning Activities: Activities that build on asset-based pedagogical research including culturally relevant pedagogy, and culturally responsive pedagogy, and linguistic pedagogy.

(f) Developmental Bilingual Program: Programs that provide instruction for English learners utilizing English and students' native language for literacy and academic instruction with the goals of language proficiency and academic achievement in students' first and second languages. This program is typically found in kindergarten through grade eight but may be offered through grade twelve.

(g) Dual Language Immersion Program (Two-Way Immersion): Program designed to provide instruction to a class of students who are fluent in English and students who are fluent in another language so that both groups of students retain their home language and learn a second language. This program is typically found in kindergarten through grade eight but may be offered through grade twelve. Dual Language Immersion and Two-Way Immersion are synonymous.

(h) One-Way Immersion Program: Program designed to provide instruction to students in English and another language for non-speakers of the other language, with the goals of language proficiency and academic achievement in English and the other language, and cross-cultural understanding. This program is typically found in kindergarten through grade eight but may be offered through grade twelve.

(i) Transitional Bilingual Education: Provides instruction for English learners utilizing English and students' native language for literacy and academic instruction, with the goals of language proficiency and academic achievement in English. Students typically transition to "English only" instruction by third grade. This program is typically found in kindergarten through grade three but may be offered at higher grade levels.

(j) Translanguaging: Refers to using linguistic repertoire, without regard for socially and politically defined language labels or boundaries.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44227, 44253.4, 44253.6, 44253.7, and 44373 Education Code.

80615.1. Bilingual Authorization Program Precondition

Pursuant to Education Code sections 44225(h) and 44370 and in accordance with section 80615.4, the commission will assess applications for a bilingual teacher preparation program that meets the criteria set forth in this section and in section 80615.2 that has provided

materials to demonstrate that the program addresses all bilingual teaching performance expectations as specified in 80615.3.

(a) An institution operating a program for the Bilingual Authorization must verify, prior to recommending a candidate for the authorization, that the candidate holds a prerequisite credential or is recommended for a prerequisite credential simultaneously. The prerequisite credential must include an English Learner authorization, or the candidate must be eligible for an English learner authorization pursuant to the provisions of Education Code section 44253.4(b)(1), and Title 5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 80015.1(a)(1) and 80015.2.

(b) Acceptable prerequisite credentials include a valid California teaching credential, services credential with the added special class authorization, visiting faculty permit, child development permit (at the teacher level or higher) or children's center permit which credential or permit authorizes the holder to provide instruction to pupils in preschool, kindergarten, any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, or classes primarily organized for adults, except for the following: emergency credentials or permits, exchange credentials as specified in Education Code section 44333, district intern credentials as specified in Education Code section 44325, sojourn certificated employee credentials as specified in Education Code section 44856, and teacher education internship credentials as specified in Education Code Article 3 (commencing with Education Code section 44450) of Chapter 3.

80615.2. Bilingual Authorization Educator Preparation Program Standards

Pursuant to Education Code sections 44225(h) and 44370 and in accordance with section 80615.4, the commission will assess applications for a bilingual teacher preparation program that meets the criteria set forth in this section and in section 80615.1 that has provided materials to demonstrate that the program addresses all bilingual teaching performance expectations as specified in 80615.3.

(a) Program Design. The bilingual teacher preparation program provides an explicit guiding statement of its philosophy, purpose, and rationale relating to bilingual education. This guiding statement acts as a modality for teaching and learning, advancing the educational success of bilingual learners and facilitating the effective participation of bilingual citizens within schools and communities. Consistent with the elements of the program's guiding statement, the program's design of coursework and field experiences for candidates demonstrate valuing the linguistic and cultural assets brought by students to the content and practice of bilingual education; promoting policies and practices that are racially sensitive for faculty, staff, and candidates consistent with the ideals of ethnic, racial, and social justice; and supporting equity, inclusion in all aspects of the program.

(1) The program's design of coursework and field experiences is cohesive and effective in providing candidates with a theoretical and practical understanding necessary to design and implement instruction that addresses the sociocultural, socioemotional, sociolinguistic,

sociopolitical, and instructional needs of bilingual learners in a variety of bilingual instructional settings in California public schools.

(2) The roles of the program's leadership team are clearly delineated, and program's leadership is provided by faculty and staff with prior experience in a bilingual setting in California and/or who hold a Bilingual Authorization (or the equivalent), or an advanced degree in bilingual/multicultural education or related field.

(3) The program demonstrates initial, ongoing, and dynamic collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEA) which serve as sites for field experiences so that candidates have opportunities to apply concepts and knowledge as described in the Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations (BTPEs) in section 80615.3. The program ensures candidates gain knowledge and experience, through coursework and fieldwork in bilingual LEA settings, about the types of bilingual programs being offered to Transitional Kindergarten (TK)-12 students (e.g., one-way immersion, dual immersion, developmental), so that candidates are prepared to be effective in their field placements.

(4) The program helps candidates make connections between the universal teaching performance expectations and the BTPEs, so candidates understand how these two sets of related competencies are reflected in both preparation and instructional practice with bilingual TK-12 students in California public schools. The program's curriculum ensures candidates are offered opportunities such as peer collaboration and other ways to learn, practice, and be assessed on the BTPEs, as well as to understand the complex theoretical and practical theories of the bilingual field (e.g., language acquisition theory and practice, bilingual and multilingual instructional approaches and methodologies, cultural products and respect for cultural traditions, English Language Development instruction, and content instruction and assessment using more than one language as the medium of communication and assessment).

(5) The design of the program includes options for candidates to complete the program in a concurrent model and/or as a post-credential model and takes into consideration a candidate's prior bilingual teaching experiences toward meeting program requirements. The design also specifies how the program is responsive to local needs and current contextual conditions. The program provides opportunities for ongoing professional development in the field of bilingual education and helps concurrent candidates transition to teacher induction.

(b) Preparing Candidates toward Mastery of BTPEs. The BTPEs describe the set of professional knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of bilingual and biliterate candidates to be able to effectively educate and support all students in meeting the state-adopted academic content standards.

(1) The program's coursework and field experience provide opportunities for candidates to learn, apply, and reflect on each BTPE. As candidates progress through the program,

pedagogical assignments are increasingly complex and challenging. The scope of the pedagogical assignments addresses the BTPEs as they apply to bilingual teacher preparation and includes program-embedded candidate assessments that provide formative feedback to candidates relative to their progress in the program and towards meeting requirements for the authorization.

(2) As candidates progress through the curriculum, faculty and mentors assess candidates' pedagogical performance in relation to the BTPEs and provide formative and timely performance feedback regarding candidates' progress toward mastering the BTPEs.

(c) Field Experience. The program demonstrates initial and ongoing collaboration with LEAs that serve as sites for field experiences so candidates have opportunities to apply concepts and knowledge as described in the BTPEs. The program provides candidates with opportunities to apply bilingual pedagogies in practice in a bilingual setting through a bilingual system of support that includes linguistic proficiency, cultural responsiveness, and pedagogical competence. The program provides candidates with guidance and assistance by mentors who hold a bilingual authorization or who have expertise in bilingual education, as determined by the program, and who are trained to guide improvements in practice. The program provides candidates with experiences that are integrated into coursework and are aligned with the BTPEs. Field experiences must consist of a minimum 20 hours of field experience throughout the bilingual authorization program. Verification of fieldwork must be completed by the preparation program or by a credentialed teacher, instructional coach, administrator, or other credentialed educator holding a bilingual authorization and having relevant and recent classroom or coaching experience mutually agreed to by the program and candidate.

(d) Monitoring, Supporting, and Assessing Candidate Progress towards Meeting Program Requirements. Program faculty, supervisors, and mentors monitor and support candidates during their progress towards mastering the BTPEs. Evidence regarding candidate progress and performance is used by program personnel to advise and assist candidates toward program completion. The program provides support and assistance to candidates and only retains candidates who make progress toward meeting program expectations and requirements for the authorization. Accurate and timely information, advice, and assistance is accessible to guide candidates' satisfaction of all program requirements in addition to mastering the BTPEs.

(e) Assessment of Candidate Competence. During the program, candidates are guided and coached on their performance in bilingual instruction using formative and summative coursework and fieldwork-embedded assessments. Evaluation as well as verification of a candidate's performance is provided by coursework, faculty, mentors, and program supervisors. Prior to recommending a candidate for a bilingual authorization, person(s) responsible for the program determine(s), using documented evidence, that a candidate has demonstrated the following:
    (1) Completion of all program requirements, as determined by person(s) responsible for the program, including satisfactory performance on the full range of the BTPEs, and
    (2) Language proficiency in accordance with either A or B below,

(A) Passage of the appropriate California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): World Languages examination that assesses speaking, reading and writing in the target language.
(B) Passage of assessment(s) conducted by the program. The assessment(s) must measure the candidate's knowledge of linguistic repertoires and registers across contexts, instructional language, and content-specific language. The program provides to candidates the guidelines by which they will be assessed. The performance level of such assessment must be set at the equivalent of the minimum level rubric of the American Council on the Teacher of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2012 Proficiency Guidelines, hereby incorporated by reference, of
1. Advanced-Low for Western languages and
2. Intermediate-High for non-Western languages

Note: Authority cited: Sections 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44227, 44253.4, 44253.6, 44253.7, and 44373 Education Code.

80615.3. Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations (BTPE)

Pursuant to Education Code sections 44225(h) and 44370, and in accordance with section 80615.4, the commission will assess applications for a bilingual teacher preparation program for approval that meets the criteria set forth in sections 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.4 that has provided materials to demonstrate that the program addresses all bilingual teaching performance expectations as specified in this section.

(a) BTPE 1: Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning. Bilingual teacher candidates:
  (1) Apply their knowledge of students, students' backgrounds, assets, learning needs, and goals using the state-adopted academic content standards to engage and motivate students in developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate learning activities.
  (2) Collaborate with colleagues to design and implement learning activities through a transnational lens to support and improve student achievement and promote learning in two languages such that all students have opportunities to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural.
  (3) Support all students in learning through respecting the dynamic nature of language change, students' own language use, cultural practice, beliefs, traditions, and values, and funds of knowledge.
  (4) Recognize students' transnational educational and cultural experiences and ongoing transnational participation of their communities and apply these understandings within culturally and linguistically appropriate learning activities and engagement with families.
  (5) Collaborate with colleagues to promote authentic family/community engagement opportunities, including collaborating with the family/community to engage them as assets to help and support all students in learning and engagement at home.

(6) Demonstrate an understanding of assets-based practices with students as well as family and community outreach and partnership efforts that are consistent with ethnic, racial, and social justice that support equity and inclusion.

(7) Demonstrate pedagogical understanding of the philosophical, theoretical, legal, and legislative foundations of bilingual education and their effects on students' educational achievement.

(b) BTPE 2: Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning. Bilingual teacher candidates:

(1) Demonstrate an understanding that students' motivation, participation, and achievement are influenced by an intercultural classroom climate and school community.

(2) Create and maintain a welcoming and supportive classroom, or other instructional environment, where all students feel valued, safe, and respected by adults and peers.

(3) Demonstrate an understanding of the typologies of English learner students in instructional and community settings by constructing classroom and/or other learning environments that include these learners' assets and needs.

(4) Promote students' social-emotional growth, bilingual development, and sense of individual and civic responsibility using asset-based interventions and supports, restorative practices, and conflict resolution practices that foster a linguistically inclusive community.

(5) Plan instruction within a variety of teaching and learning environments that promote language education, encourage mindful interactions among students, reflect diversity and multiple perspectives, and are culturally, developmentally, and linguistically responsive to the strengths and needs of the students.

(6) Maintain high expectations for content learning as well as language and literacy learning within a bilingual instructional program or setting, with appropriate support for the full range of learners in the setting.

(7) Establish and maintain clear expectations for productive student-to-student as well as student-to-teacher interactions by co-constructing opportunities for safe and respectful translanguaging during instruction.

(c) BTPE 3: Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning (Content Specific Pedagogy). Bilingual teacher candidates:

(1) Demonstrate knowledge of the linguistic repertoires and registers across contexts and content areas of the applicable content standards in both English and the target language as appropriate to the developmental language levels of the K-12 students in the bilingual education program through instructional planning and instructional activities with students.

(2) Collaborate with colleagues to plan content instruction that acknowledges the relationship and transferability between primary and target language vocabulary along with grammatical and linguistic conventions and constructions to help students access the content of the curriculum.

(3) Provide students with practice in integrating the four domains of language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) through multimodal communication, language forms, and

language functions to help develop students' literacy and content knowledge in two languages.

    (4) Identify and use a variety of criteria to assess the suitability and appropriateness of available instructional materials for the local context and to identify any additional resources to support student content learning.

    (5) Select instructional resources that will support the developmental, linguistic, cultural, and learning assets and needs of students to help support all students in a bilingual program or setting to access and achieve the content standards.

(d) BTPE 4: Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for All Students
Bilingual teacher candidates:

    (1) Design learning experiences for all students to help develop bilingualism and biliteracy that are supported by developmental linguistic processes including but not limited to cross-linguistic transfer, contrastive analysis, cognitive and metacognitive research-based processes, language use, and translanguaging.

    (2) Apply knowledge of research on the cognitive and metacognitive effects of bilingualism, biliteracy, translanguaging, and transliteracies as developmental processes when designing and implementing engaging instructional practices with all students.

    (3) Demonstrate understanding of the advantages, disadvantages, goals, and instructional practices of different research-based bilingual program models (e.g., immersion, dual language) when designing learning experiences for all students consistent with the requirements and characteristics of the specific program model and instructional setting.

    (4) Demonstrate knowledge of the most current English Language Arts/English Language Development Standards and Framework, the most current World Languages Standards and Framework, as well as the applicable state-adopted academic content standards and framework, when designing learning experiences for all students.

(e) BTPE 5: Assessing Student Learning. Bilingual teacher candidates:

    (1) Collaborate with colleagues to plan, develop, implement, and assess standards-aligned content instruction as appropriate to the languages of instruction.

    (2) Employ a variety of culturally relevant, unbiased instructional and assessment strategies, appropriate to student language proficiency and developmental levels in both languages, that assess student achievement while also providing opportunities as appropriate for students to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills.

    (3) Apply knowledge of the purposes, characteristics, and appropriate uses of different types of language and content assessments (e.g., diagnostic, informal, formal, progress-monitoring, formative, summative, and performance) to design and implement classroom assessments, including use of appropriate scales and rubrics where applicable.

    (4) Collaborate with colleagues across grade levels and subject areas, as applicable, to interpret formative and summative assessment results to identify students' level of academic proficiency in the languages of instruction as well as content knowledge and use this information in planning instruction.

(f) BTPE 6: Developing as a Professional Educator. Bilingual teacher candidates:
- (1) Demonstrate awareness of historical bias and practices of institutional racism and identify and mitigate these biases and practices in their own thinking, instructional planning, and interactions with students, colleagues, family, and community members to support and increase student biliteracy levels.
- (2) Apply knowledge of the philosophical, theoretical, legal, and legislative foundations of bilingual education and advocate for bilingual/multilingual education within their professional communities.
- (3) Demonstrate awareness of organizations committed to the advancement of bilingual education.
- (4) Engage, promote, and empower families' leadership development for civic engagement under the guidance of mentors.
- (5) Demonstrate intercultural communication, understanding, and interaction with families and communities that is linguistically and culturally responsive, respectful, affirming, and empowering.
- (6) Recognize the negative effects on students of stereotyping, lack of valuing language varieties/dialects used by students, families, and communities, and lack of valuing the diversity, dimensionality of language.
- (7) Understand the constant flux of language vocabulary and usage and take steps to mitigate interference between languages in instructional planning, instructional activities, interactions with students, colleagues, family members, and communities.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44227, 44253.4, 44253.6, 44253.7, and 44373 Education Code.

80615.4 Program Approval Requirements

Pursuant to Education Code sections 44225(h) and 44370, the commission will assess applications for a bilingual teacher preparation program for approval that meets the criteria set forth in sections 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3 as specified in this section.
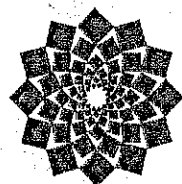
- (a) Institutions seeking program approval to offer a bilingual authorization must provide documentation demonstrating alignment with Section 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3. The documentation shall consist of:
  - (1) For alignment with section 80615.1, documentation that demonstrates that the program verifies that each candidate holds or is simultaneously seeking the requisite credential for the bilingual authorization.
  - (2) For alignment with section 80615.2, a listing of all courses for the proposed program, course descriptions, course sequencing, and all course syllabi.
  - (3) For programs proposing to use a local assessment to determine language proficiency pursuant to section 80615.2(e) rather than the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) examination, documentation demonstrating that the program has

established the minimum performance level for that assessment in accordance with 80615.2(e)(2)(B).

    (4) For alignment with section 80615.3, documentation that indicates where the Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations are covered within the program coursework and clinical practice, specifically where in the program the candidates are introduced to, provided opportunities to practice, and are assessed on each of the Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations.

(b) Upon receipt of documentation specified in sections 80615.4(a)(1)-(5), the commission staff will initiate the review of documentation. The review shall consist of a collaborative effort by a two-person peer review team, selected by commission staff, with knowledge in bilingual teacher preparation. The review shall include the following iterative process:

    (1) A review of program documentation will be conducted to determine alignment of the program proposal to Section 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3.

    (2) Written feedback resulting from the review will be provided to the institution seeking program approval within 30 days of the review.

    (3) If upon the conclusion of the review it is determined that the proposed program has not been deemed to be in alignment with 80615.1, 80615.2, or 80615.3, the institution seeking program approval will receive written notice of the additional documentation required.

    (4) The review team will review the additional documentation submitted by the institution in response to initial feedback and provide written feedback to the institution with the process being repeated until the documentation specified in 80615.4(a)(1)-(5) is determined to be aligned with Section 80615.1, 80615.2 and 80615.3.

(c) Upon review team determination that program documentation demonstrates alignment with Sections 80615.1, 80615.2, and 80615.3, the review team will recommend the proposed program to the Committee on Accreditation for approval in accordance with Education Code section 44373(c)(2). The Committee on Accreditation will take action to approve or deny approval of the proposed program.

(d) If approved by the Committee on Accreditation, the institution may begin operating the program as of the date of approval by the Committee on Accreditation. Formal notification of Committee on Accreditation action will be provided to the institution within 30 days of Committee on Accreditation approval. The program's ability to recommend candidates for the credential will be effective as of the date of Committee on Accreditation approval.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44370, 44373(c)(2) Education Code.

ACTFL
PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES 2012

ACTFL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

General Preface
to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines are descriptions of what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context. For each skill, these guidelines identify five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are subdivided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels. The levels of the ACTFL Guidelines describe the continuum of proficiency from that of the highly articulate, well-educated language user to a level of little or no functional ability.

These Guidelines present the levels of proficiency as ranges, and describe what an individual can and cannot do with language at each level, regardless of where, when, or how the language was acquired. Together these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower levels. The Guidelines are not based on any particular theory, pedagogical method, or educational curriculum. They neither describe how an individual learns a language nor prescribe how an individual should learn a language, and they should not be used for such purposes. They are an instrument for the evaluation of functional language ability.

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines were first published in 1986 as an adaptation for the academic community of the U.S. Government's Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions. This third edition of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines includes the first revisions of Listening and Reading since their original publication in 1986, and a second revision of the ACTFL Speaking and Writing Guidelines, which were revised to reflect real-world assessment needs in 1999 and 2001 respectively. New for the 2012 edition are the addition of the major level of Distinguished to the Speaking and Writing Guidelines, the division of the Advanced level into the three sublevels of High, Mid, and Low for the Listening and Reading Guidelines, and the addition of a general level description at the Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice levels for all skills.

Another new feature of the 2012 Guidelines is their publication online, supported with glossed terminology and annotated, multimedia samples of performance at each level for Speaking and Writing, and examples of oral and written texts and tasks associated with each level for Reading and Listening.

The direct application of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines is for the evaluation of functional language ability. The Guidelines are intended to be used for global assessment in academic and workplace settings. However, the Guidelines do have instructional implications. The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines underlie the development of the ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners (1998) and are used in conjunction with the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning (1996, 1998, 2006) to describe how well students meet content standards. For the past 25 years, the ACTFL Guidelines have had an increasingly profound impact on language teaching and learning in the United States.

ACTFL PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES 2012 – SPEAKING

Preface

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Speaking describe five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The description of each major level is representative of a specific range of abilities. Together these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower levels. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are divided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels.

The Guidelines describe the tasks that speakers can handle at each level, as well as the content, context, accuracy, and discourse types associated with tasks at each level. They also present the limits that speakers encounter when attempting to function at the next higher major level.

These Guidelines can be used to evaluate speech that is either Interpersonal (interactive, two-way communication) or Presentational (one-way, non-interactive).

The written descriptions of speaking proficiency are accompanied online by speech samples illustrating the features of each major level.

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DISTINGUISHED

Speakers at the Distinguished level are able to use language skillfully, and with accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness. They are educated and articulate users of the language. They can reflect on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts in a culturally appropriate manner. Distinguished-level speakers can use persuasive and hypothetical discourse for representational purposes, allowing them to advocate a point of view that is not necessarily their own. They can tailor language to a variety of audiences by adapting their speech and register in ways that are culturally authentic.

Speakers at the Distinguished level produce highly sophisticated and tightly organized extended discourse. At the same time, they can speak succinctly, often using cultural and historical references to allow them to say less and mean more. At this level, oral discourse typically resembles written discourse.

A non-native accent, a lack of a native-like economy of expression, a limited control of deeply embedded cultural references, and/or an occasional isolated language error may still be present at this level.

SUPERIOR

Speakers at the Superior level are able to communicate with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives. They discuss their interests and special fields of competence, explain complex matters in detail, and provide lengthy and coherent narrations, all with ease, fluency, and accuracy. They present their opinions on a number of issues of interest to them, such as social and political issues, and provide structured arguments to support these opinions. They are able to construct and develop hypotheses to explore alternative possibilities.

When appropriate, these speakers use extended discourse without unnaturally lengthy hesitation to make their point, even when engaged in abstract elaborations. Such discourse, while coherent, may still be influenced by language patterns other than those of the target language. Superior-level speakers employ a variety of interactive and discourse strategies, such as turn-taking and separating main ideas from supporting information through the use of syntactic, lexical, and phonetic devices.

Speakers at the Superior level demonstrate no pattern of error in the use of basic structures, although they may make sporadic errors, particularly in low-frequency structures and in complex high-frequency structures. Such errors, if they do occur, do not distract the native interlocutor or interfere with communication.

ADVANCED

Speakers at the Advanced level engage in conversation in a clearly participatory manner in order to communicate information on autobiographical topics, as well as topics of community, national, or international interest. The topics are handled concretely by means of narration and description in the major times frames of past, present, and future. These speakers can also deal with a social situation with an unexpected complication. The language of Advanced-level speakers is abundant, the oral paragraph being the measure of Advanced-level length and discourse. Advanced-level speakers have sufficient control of basic structures and generic vocabulary to be understood by native speakers of the language, including those unaccustomed to non-native speech.

Advanced High

Speakers at the Advanced High sublevel perform all Advanced-level tasks with linguistic ease, confidence, and competence. They are consistently able to explain in detail and narrate fully and accurately in all time frames. In addition, Advanced High speakers handle the tasks pertaining to the Superior level but cannot sustain performance at that level across a variety of topics. They may provide a structured argument to support their opinions, and they may construct hypotheses, but patterns of error appear. They can discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise, but in general, they are more comfortable discussing a variety of topics concretely.

Advanced High speakers may demonstrate a well-developed ability to compensate for an imperfect grasp of some forms or for limitations in vocabulary by the confident use of communicative strategies, such as paraphrasing, circumlocution, and illustration. They use precise vocabulary and intonation to express meaning and often show great fluency and ease of speech. However, when called on to perform the complex tasks associated with the Superior level over a variety of topics, their language will at times break down or prove inadequate, or they may avoid the task altogether, for example, by resorting to simplification through the use of description or narration in place of argument or hypothesis.

Advanced Mid

Speakers at the Advanced Mid sublevel 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 topics relating to events of current, public, and personal interest or individual relevance.

Advanced Mid speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future by providing a full account, with good control of aspect. 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. Their 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 on to perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the quality and/or quantity of their speech will generally decline.

Advanced Low

Speakers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home, and leisure activities. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest.

Advanced Low speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse with some control of aspect. In these narrations and descriptions, Advanced Low speakers combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length, although these narrations and descriptions tend to be handled separately rather than interwoven. They can handle appropriately the essential linguistic challenges presented by a complication or an unexpected turn of events.

Responses produced by Advanced Low speakers are typically not longer than a single paragraph. The speaker's dominant language may be evident in the use of false cognates, literal translations, or the oral paragraph structure of that language. At times their discourse may be minimal for the level, marked by an irregular flow, and containing noticeable self-correction. More generally, the performance of Advanced Low speakers tends to be uneven.

Advanced Low speech is typically marked by a certain grammatical roughness (e.g., inconsistent control of verb endings), but the overall performance of the Advanced-level tasks is sustained, albeit minimally. The vocabulary of Advanced Low speakers often lacks specificity. Nevertheless, Advanced Low speakers are able to use communicative strategies such as rephrasing and circumlocution.

Advanced Low speakers contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion. Their speech can be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may require some repetition or 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.

INTERMEDIATE

Speakers at the Intermediate level are distinguished primarily by their ability to create with the language when talking about familiar topics related to their daily life. They are able to recombine learned material in order to express personal meaning. Intermediate-level speakers can ask simple questions and can handle a straightforward survival situation. They produce sentence-level language, ranging from discrete sentences to strings of sentences, typically in present time. Intermediate-level speakers are understood by interlocutors who are accustomed to dealing with non-native learners of the language.

Intermediate High

Intermediate High speakers are able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with the routine tasks and social situations of the Intermediate level. They are able to handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to their work, school, recreation, particular interests, and areas of competence.

Intermediate High speakers can handle a substantial number of tasks associated with the Advanced level, but they are unable to sustain performance of all of these tasks all of the time. Intermediate High speakers can narrate and describe in all major time frames using connected discourse of paragraph length, but not all the time. Typically, when Intermediate High speakers attempt to perform Advanced-level tasks, their speech exhibits one or more features of breakdown, such as the failure to carry out fully the narration or description in the appropriate major time frame, an inability to maintain paragraph-length discourse, or a reduction in breadth and appropriateness of vocabulary.

Intermediate High speakers can generally be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, although interference from another language may be evident (e.g., use of code-switching, false cognates, literal translations), and a pattern of gaps in communication may occur.

Intermediate Mid

Speakers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel are able to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is generally limited to those predictable and concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture. These include personal information related to self, family, home, daily activities, interests and personal preferences, as well as physical and social needs, such as food, shopping, travel, and lodging.

Intermediate Mid speakers tend to function reactively, for example, by responding to direct questions or requests for information. However, they are capable of asking a variety of questions when necessary to obtain simple information to satisfy basic needs, such as directions, prices, and services. When called on to perform functions or handle topics at the Advanced level, they provide some information but have difficulty linking ideas, manipulating time and aspect, and using communicative strategies, such as circumlocution.

Intermediate Mid speakers are able to express personal meaning by creating with the language, in part by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of sentences and strings of sentences. Their speech may contain pauses, reformulations, and self-corrections as they search for adequate vocabulary and appropriate language forms to express themselves. In spite of the limitations in their vocabulary and/or pronunciation and/or grammar and/or syntax, Intermediate Mid speakers are generally understood by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Overall, Intermediate Mid speakers are at ease when performing Intermediate-level tasks and do so with significant quantity and quality of Intermediate-level language.

Intermediate Low

Speakers at the Intermediate Low sublevel are able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by creating with the language in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to some of the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture. These topics relate to basic personal information; for example, self and family, some daily activities and personal preferences, and some immediate needs, such as ordering food and making simple purchases. At the Intermediate Low sublevel, speakers are primarily reactive and struggle to answer direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few appropriate questions. Intermediate Low speakers manage to sustain the functions of the Intermediate level, although just barely.

Intermediate Low speakers express personal meaning by combining and recombining what they know and what they hear from their interlocutors into short statements and discrete sentences. Their responses are often filled with hesitancy and inaccuracies as they search for appropriate linguistic forms and vocabulary while attempting to give form to the message. Their speech is characterized by frequent pauses, ineffective reformulations and self-corrections. Their pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax are strongly influenced by their first language. In spite of frequent misunderstandings that may require repetition or rephrasing, Intermediate Low speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors, particularly by those accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

NOVICE

Novice-level speakers can communicate short messages on highly predictable, everyday topics that affect them directly. They do so primarily through the use of isolated words and phrases that have been encountered, memorized, and recalled. Novice-level speakers may be difficult to understand even by the most sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to non-native speech.

Novice High

Speakers at the Novice High sublevel are able to handle a variety of tasks pertaining to the Intermediate level, but are unable to sustain performance at that level. They are able to manage successfully a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to a few of the predictable topics necessary for survival in the target language culture, such as basic personal information, basic objects, and a limited number of activities, preferences, and immediate needs. Novice High speakers respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few formulaic questions.

Novice High speakers are able to express personal meaning by relying heavily on learned phrases or recombinations of these and what they hear from their interlocutor. Their language consists primarily of short and sometimes incomplete sentences in the present, and may be hesitant or inaccurate. On the other hand, since their language often consists of expansions of learned material and stock phrases, they may sometimes sound surprisingly fluent and accurate. Pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax may be strongly influenced by the first language. Frequent misunderstandings may arise but, with repetition or rephrasing, Novice High speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors used to non-natives. When called on to handle a variety of topics and perform functions pertaining to the Intermediate level, a Novice High speaker can sometimes respond in intelligible sentences, but will not be able to sustain sentence-level discourse.

Novice Mid

Speakers at the Novice Mid sublevel communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned. When responding to direct questions, they may say only two or three words at a time or give an occasional stock answer. They pause frequently as they search for simple vocabulary or attempt to recycle their own and their interlocutor's words. Novice Mid speakers may be understood with difficulty even by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives. When called on to handle topics and perform functions associated with the Intermediate level, they frequently resort to repetition, words from their native language, or silence.

Novice Low

Speakers at the Novice Low sublevel have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible. Given adequate time and familiar cues, they may be able to exchange greetings, give their identity, and name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment. They are unable to perform functions or handle topics pertaining to the Intermediate level, and cannot therefore participate in a true conversational exchange.

ACTFL PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES 2012 – WRITING

Preface

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Writing describe five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The description of each major level is representative of a specific range of abilities. Together these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower levels. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are divided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels.

The Guidelines describe the tasks that writers can handle at each level as well as the content, context, accuracy, and discourse types associated with the writing tasks at each level. They also present the limits that writers encounter when attempting to function at the next higher major level.

These Guidelines can be used to describe written text that is either Presentational (essays, reports, letters) or Interpersonal (instant messaging, e-mail communication, texting). Moreover, they apply to writing that is spontaneous (immediate, unedited) or reflective (revised, edited). This is possible because the Guidelines describe the product rather than the process or purpose of the writing.

The written descriptions of writing proficiency are accompanied online by writing samples illustrating the features of each major level.

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DISTINGUISHED

Writers at the Distinguished level can carry out formal writing tasks such as official correspondence, position papers, and journal articles. They can write analytically on professional, academic and societal issues. In addition, Distinguished-level writers are able to address world issues in a highly conceptualized fashion.

These writers can use persuasive and hypothetical discourse as representational techniques, allowing them to advocate a position that is not necessarily their own. They are also able to communicate subtlety and nuance. Distinguished-level writing is sophisticated and is directed to sophisticated readers. Writers at this level write to their audience; they tailor their language to their readers.

Distinguished-level writing is dense and complex; yet, it is characterized by an economy of expression. The writing is skillfully crafted and is organized in a way that reflects target-culture thought patterns. At the Distinguished level, length is not a determining factor. Distinguished-level texts can be as short as a poem or as long as a treatise.

Writers at the Distinguished level demonstrate control of complex lexical, grammatical, syntactic, and stylistic features of the language. Discourse structure and punctuation are used strategically, not only to organize meaning but also to enhance it. Conventions are generally appropriate to the text modality and the target culture.

SUPERIOR

Writers at the Superior level are able to produce most kinds of formal and informal correspondence, in-depth summaries, reports, and research papers on a variety of social, academic, and professional topics. Their treatment of these issues moves beyond the concrete to the abstract.

Writers at the Superior level demonstrate the ability to explain complex matters, and to present and support opinions by developing cogent arguments and hypotheses. Their treatment of the topic is enhanced by the effective use of structure, lexicon, and writing protocols. They organize and prioritize ideas to convey to the reader what is significant. The relationship among ideas is consistently clear, due to organizational and developmental principles (e.g., cause and effect, comparison, chronology). These writers are capable of extended treatment of a topic which typically requires at least a series of paragraphs, but can extend to a number of pages.

Writers at the Superior level demonstrate a high degree of control of grammar and syntax, of both general and specialized/professional vocabulary, of spelling or symbol production, of cohesive devices, and of punctuation. Their vocabulary is precise and varied. Writers at this level direct their writing to their audiences; their writing fluency eases the reader's task.

Writers at the Superior level do not typically control target-language cultural, organizational, or stylistic patterns. At the Superior level, writers demonstrate no pattern of error; however, occasional errors may occur, particularly in low-frequency structures. When present, these errors do not interfere with comprehension, and they rarely distract the native reader.

ADVANCED

Writers at the Advanced level are characterized by the ability to write routine informal and some formal correspondence, as well as narratives, descriptions, and summaries of a factual nature. They can narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future, using paraphrasing and elaboration to provide clarity. Advanced-level writers produce connected discourse of paragraph length and structure. At this level, writers show good control of the most frequently used structures and generic vocabulary, allowing them to be understood by those unaccustomed to the writing of non-natives.

Advanced High

Writers at the Advanced High sublevel are able to write about a variety of topics with significant precision and detail. They can handle informal and formal correspondence according to appropriate conventions. They can write summaries and reports of a factual nature. They can also write extensively about topics relating to particular interests and special areas of competence, although their writing tends to emphasize the concrete aspects of such topics. Advanced High writers can narrate and describe in the major time frames, with solid control of aspect. In addition, they are able to demonstrate the ability to handle writing tasks associated with the Superior level, such as developing arguments and constructing hypotheses, but are not able to do this all of the time; they cannot produce Superior-level writing consistently across a variety of topics treated abstractly or generally. They have good control of a range of grammatical structures and a fairly wide general vocabulary. When writing at the Advanced level, they often show remarkable ease of expression, but under the demands of Superior-level writing tasks, patterns of error appear. The linguistic limitations of Advanced High writing may occasionally distract the native reader from the message.

Advanced Mid

Writers at the Advanced Mid sublevel are able to meet a range of work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe with detail in all major time frames with good control of aspect. They are able to write straightforward summaries on topics of general interest. Their writing exhibits a variety of cohesive devices in texts up to several paragraphs in length. There is good control of the most frequently used target-language syntactic structures and a range of general vocabulary. Most often, thoughts are expressed clearly and supported by some elaboration. This writing incorporates organizational features both of the target language and the writer's first language and may at times resemble oral discourse. Writing at the Advanced Mid sublevel is understood readily by natives not used to the writing of non-natives. When called on to perform functions or to treat issues at the Superior level, Advanced Mid writers will manifest a decline in the quality and/or quantity of their writing.

Advanced Low

Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to meet basic work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in major time frames with some control of aspect. They are able to compose simple summaries on familiar topics. Advanced Low writers are able to combine and link sentences into texts of paragraph length and structure. Their writing, while adequate to satisfy the criteria of the Advanced level, may not be substantive. Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel demonstrate the ability to incorporate a limited number of cohesive devices, and may resort to some redundancy and awkward repetition. They rely on patterns of oral discourse and the writing style of their first language. These writers demonstrate minimal control of common structures and vocabulary associated with the Advanced level. Their writing is understood by natives not accustomed to the writing of non-natives, although some additional effort may be required in the reading of the text. When attempting to perform functions at the Superior level, their writing will deteriorate significantly.

INTERMEDIATE

Writers at the Intermediate level are characterized by the ability to meet practical writing needs, such as simple messages and letters, requests for information, and notes. In addition, they can ask and respond to simple questions in writing. These writers can create with the language and communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal interest and social needs. They write primarily in present time. At this level, writers use basic vocabulary and structures to express meaning that is comprehensible to those accustomed to the writing of non-natives.

Intermediate High

Writers at the Intermediate High sublevel are able to meet all practical writing needs of the Intermediate level. Additionally, they can write compositions and simple summaries related to work and/or school experiences. They can narrate and describe in different time frames when writing about everyday events and situations. These narrations and descriptions are often but not always of paragraph length, and they typically contain some evidence of breakdown in one or more features of the Advanced level. For example, these writers may be inconsistent in the use of appropriate major time markers, resulting in a loss of clarity. The vocabulary, grammar, and style of Intermediate High writers essentially correspond to those of the spoken language. Intermediate High writing, even with numerous and perhaps significant errors, is generally comprehensible to natives not used to the writing of non-natives, but there are likely to be gaps in comprehension.

Intermediate Mid

Writers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel are able to meet a number of practical writing needs. They can write short, simple communications, compositions, and requests for information in loosely connected texts about personal preferences, daily routines, common events, and other personal topics. Their writing is framed in present time but may contain references to other time frames. The writing style closely resembles oral discourse. Writers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel show evidence of control of basic sentence structure and verb forms. This writing is best defined as a collection of discrete sentences and/or questions loosely strung together. There is little evidence of deliberate organization. Intermediate Mid writers can be understood readily by natives used to the writing of non-natives. When Intermediate Mid writers attempt Advanced-level writing tasks, the quality and/or quantity of their writing declines and the message may be unclear.

Intermediate Low

Writers at the Intermediate Low sublevel are able to meet some limited practical writing needs. They can create statements and formulate questions based on familiar material. Most sentences are recombinations of learned vocabulary and structures. These are short and simple conversational-style sentences with basic word order. They are written almost exclusively in present time. Writing tends to consist of a few simple sentences, often with repetitive structure. Topics are tied to highly predictable content areas and personal information. Vocabulary is adequate to express elementary needs. There may be basic errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, spelling, and in the formation and use of non-alphabetic symbols. Their writing is understood by natives used to the writing of non-natives, although additional effort may be required. When Intermediate Low writers attempt to perform writing tasks at the Advanced level, their writing will deteriorate significantly and their message may be left incomplete.

NOVICE

Writers at the Novice level are characterized by the ability to produce lists and notes, primarily by writing words and phrases. They can provide limited formulaic information on simple forms and documents. These writers can reproduce practiced material to convey the most simple messages. In addition, they can transcribe familiar words or phrases, copy letters of the alphabet or syllables of a syllabary, or reproduce basic characters with some accuracy.

Novice High

Writers at the Novice High sublevel are able to meet limited basic practical writing needs using lists, short messages, postcards, and simple notes. They are able to express themselves within the context in which the language was learned, relying mainly on practiced material. Their writing is focused on common elements of daily life. Novice High writers are able to recombine learned vocabulary and structures to create simple sentences on very familiar topics, but are not able to sustain sentence-level writing all the time. Due to inadequate vocabulary and/or grammar, writing at this level may only partially communicate the intentions of the writer. Novice High writing is often comprehensible to natives used to the writing of non-natives, but gaps in comprehension may occur.

Novice Mid

Writers at the Novice Mid sublevel can reproduce from memory a modest number of words and phrases in context. They can supply limited information on simple forms and documents, and other basic biographical information, such as names, numbers, and nationality. Novice Mid writers exhibit a high degree of accuracy when writing on well-practiced, familiar topics using limited formulaic language. With less familiar topics, there is a marked decrease in accuracy. Errors in spelling or in the representation of symbols may be frequent. There is little evidence of functional writing skills. At this level, the writing may be difficult to understand even by those accustomed to non-native writers.

Novice Low

Writers at the Novice Low sublevel are able to copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases, form letters in an alphabetic system, and copy and produce isolated, basic strokes in languages that use syllabaries or characters. Given adequate time and familiar cues, they can reproduce from memory a very limited number of isolated words or familiar phrases, but errors are to be expected.

ACTFL PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES 2012 – LISTENING

Preface

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Listening
describe five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior,
Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The description of each
major level is representative of a specific range of abilities. Together
these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower
levels. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are
divided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels. The subdivision of the
Advanced Level into High, Mid, and Low is new. This makes the
Listening descriptions parallel to the other skill-level descriptions.

Listening is an interpretive skill. Listening comprehension is
based largely on the amount of information listeners can retrieve from what they hear and the inferences and
connections that they can make. By describing the tasks that listeners can perform with different types of oral texts
and under different types of circumstances, the Listening Proficiency Guidelines describe how listeners understand
oral discourse. The Guidelines do not describe how listening skills develop, how one learns to listen, nor the actual
cognitive processes involved in the activity. Rather, they are intended to describe what listeners understand from what
they hear.

These Guidelines apply to listening that is either Interpretive (non-participative, overheard) or Interpersonal
(participative).

The written descriptions of listening proficiency are accompanied online by authentic speech samples and the
functional listening tasks associated with each major level.

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DISTINGUISHED

At the Distinguished level, listeners can understand a wide variety of forms, styles, and registers of speech on highly specialized topics in language that is tailored to different audiences. Listeners at the Distinguished level can understand language such as that found in classical theater, art films, professional symposia, academic debates, public policy statements, literary readings, and most jokes and puns. They are able to comprehend implicit and inferred information, tone, and point of view, and can follow highly persuasive arguments. They are able to understand unpredictable turns of thought related to sophisticated topics. In addition, their listening ability is enhanced by a broad and deep understanding of cultural references and allusions. Listeners at the Distinguished level are able to appreciate the richness of the spoken language.

Distinguished-level listeners understand speech that can be highly abstract, highly technical, or both, as well as speech that contains very precise, often low-frequency vocabulary and complex rhetorical structures. At this level, listeners comprehend oral discourse that is lengthy and dense, structurally complex, rich in cultural reference, idiomatic and colloquial. In addition, listeners at this level can understand information that is subtle or highly specialized, as well as the full cultural significance of very short texts with little or no linguistic redundancy.

Distinguished-level listeners comprehend language from within the cultural framework and are able to understand a speaker's use of nuance and subtlety. However, they may still have difficulty fully understanding certain dialects and nonstandard varieties of the language.

SUPERIOR

At the Superior level, listeners are able to understand speech in a standard dialect on a wide range of familiar and less familiar topics. They can follow linguistically complex extended discourse such as that found in academic and professional settings, lectures, speeches and reports. Comprehension is no longer limited to the listener's familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of more complex structures and linguistic experience within the target culture. Superior listeners can understand not only what is said, but sometimes what is left unsaid; that is, they can make inferences.

Superior-level listeners understand speech that typically uses precise, specialized vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. This speech often deals abstractly with topics in a way that is appropriate for academic and professional audiences. It can be reasoned and can contain cultural references.

ADVANCED

At the Advanced level, listeners can understand the main ideas and most supporting details in connected discourse on a variety of general interest topics, such as news stories, explanations, instructions, anecdotes, or travelogue descriptions. Listeners are able to compensate for limitations in their lexical and structural control of the language by using real-world knowledge and contextual clues. Listeners may also derive some meaning from oral texts at higher levels if they possess significant familiarity with the topic or context.

Advanced-level listeners understand speech that is authentic and connected. This speech is lexically and structurally uncomplicated. The discourse is straightforward and is generally organized in a clear and predictable way.

Advanced-level listeners demonstrate the ability to comprehend language on a range of topics of general interest. They have sufficient knowledge of language structure to understand basic time-frame references. Nevertheless, their understanding is most often limited to concrete, conventional discourse.

Advanced High

At the Advanced High sublevel, listeners are able to understand, with ease and confidence, conventional narrative and descriptive texts of any length as well as complex factual material such as summaries or reports. They are typically able to follow some of the essential points of more complex or argumentative speech in areas of special interest or knowledge. In addition, they are able to derive some meaning from oral texts that deal with unfamiliar topics or situations. At the Advanced High sublevel, listeners are able to comprehend the facts presented in oral discourse and are often able to recognize speaker-intended inferences. Nevertheless, there are likely to be gaps in comprehension of complex texts dealing with issues treated abstractly that are typically understood by Superior-level listeners.

Advanced Mid

At the Advanced Mid sublevel, listeners are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things, and narrations about past, present, and future events. The speech is predominantly in familiar target-language patterns. Listeners understand the main facts and many supporting details. Comprehension derives not only from situational and subject-matter knowledge, but also from an increasing overall facility with the language itself.

Advanced Low

At the Advanced Low sublevel, listeners are able to understand short conventional narrative and descriptive texts with a clear underlying structure though their comprehension may be uneven. The listener understands the main facts and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge.

INTERMEDIATE

At the Intermediate level, listeners can understand information conveyed in simple, sentence-length speech on familiar or everyday topics. They are generally able to comprehend one utterance at a time while engaged in face-to-face conversations or in routine listening tasks such as understanding highly contextualized messages, straightforward announcements, or simple instructions and directions. Listeners rely heavily on redundancy, restatement, paraphrasing, and contextual clues.

Intermediate-level listeners understand speech that conveys basic information. This speech is simple, minimally connected, and contains high-frequency vocabulary.

Intermediate-level listeners are most accurate in their comprehension when getting meaning from simple, straightforward speech. They are able to comprehend messages found in highly familiar everyday contexts. Intermediate listeners require a controlled listening environment where they hear what they may expect to hear.

Intermediate High

At the Intermediate High sublevel, listeners are able to understand, with ease and confidence, simple sentence-length speech in basic personal and social contexts. They can derive substantial meaning from some connected texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners although there often will be gaps in understanding due to a limited knowledge of the vocabulary and structures of the spoken language.

Intermediate Mid

At the Intermediate Mid sublevel, listeners are able to understand simple, sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in a variety of basic personal and social contexts. Comprehension is most often accurate with highly familiar and predictable topics although a few misunderstandings may occur. Intermediate Mid listeners may get some meaning from oral texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners.

Intermediate Low

At the Intermediate Low sublevel, listeners are able to understand some information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts, though comprehension is often uneven. At the Intermediate Low sublevel, listeners show little or no comprehension of oral texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners.

NOVICE

At the Novice level, listeners can understand key words, true aural cognates, and formulaic expressions that are highly contextualized and highly predictable, such as those found in introductions and basic courtesies.

Novice-level listeners understand words and phrases from simple questions, statements, and high-frequency commands. They typically require repetition, rephrasing, and/or a slowed rate of speech for comprehension. They rely heavily on extralinguistic support to derive meaning.

Novice-level listeners are most accurate when they are able to recognize speech that they can anticipate. In this way, these listeners tend to recognize rather than truly comprehend. Their listening is largely dependent on factors other than the message itself.

Novice High

At the Novice High sublevel, listeners are often but not always able to understand information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts where there is contextual or extralinguistic support, though comprehension may often be very uneven. They are able to understand speech dealing with areas of practical need such as highly standardized messages, phrases, or instructions, if the vocabulary has been learned.

Novice Mid

At the Novice Mid sublevel, listeners can recognize and begin to understand a number of high-frequency, highly contextualized words and phrases including aural cognates and borrowed words. Typically, they understand little more than one phrase at a time, and repetition may be required.

Novice Low

At the Novice Low sublevel, listeners are able occasionally to recognize isolated words or very high-frequency phrases when those are strongly supported by context. These listeners show virtually no comprehension of any kind of spoken message, not even within the most basic personal and social contexts.

ACTFL PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES 2012 – READING

Preface

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Reading describe five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The description of each major level is representative of a specific range of abilities. Together these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower levels. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are divided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels. The subdivision of the Advanced level is new. This makes the Reading descriptions parallel to the other skill level descriptions.

Reading is an interpretive skill. Reading comprehension is based largely on the amount of information readers can retrieve from a text, and the inferences and connections that they can make within and across texts. By describing the tasks that readers can perform with different types of texts and under different types of circumstances, the Reading Proficiency Guidelines describe how readers understand written texts. These Guidelines do not describe how reading skills develop, how one learns to read, nor the actual cognitive processes involved in the activity of reading. Rather, they are intended to describe what readers are able to understand from what they read.

These Guidelines apply to reading that is either Interpretive (books, essays, reports, etc.) or Interpersonal (instant messaging, texting, email communication, etc.).

The written descriptions of reading proficiency are accompanied online by authentic text samples and the functional reading tasks associated with each major level.

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DISTINGUISHED

At the Distinguished level, readers can understand a wide variety of texts from many genres including professional, technical, academic, and literary. These texts are characterized by one or more of the following: a high level of abstraction, precision or uniqueness of vocabulary; density of information; cultural reference; or complexity of structure. Readers are able to comprehend implicit and inferred information, tone, and point of view and can follow highly persuasive arguments. They are able to understand unpredictable turns of thought related to sophisticated topics.

Readers at the Distinguished level are able to understand writing tailored to specific audiences as well as a number of historical, regional, and colloquial variations of the language. These readers are able to appreciate the richness of written language. Distinguished-level readers understand and appreciate texts that use highly precise, low-frequency vocabulary as well as complex rhetorical structures to convey subtle or highly specialized information. Such texts are typically essay length but may be excerpts from more lengthy texts.

Distinguished-level readers comprehend language from within the cultural framework and are able to understand a writer's use of nuance and subtlety. However, they may still have difficulty fully understanding certain nonstandard varieties of the written language.

SUPERIOR

At the Superior level, readers are able to understand texts from many genres dealing with a wide range of subjects, both familiar and unfamiliar. Comprehension is no longer limited to the reader's familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of complex structures and knowledge of the target culture. Readers at the Superior level can draw inferences from textual and extralinguistic clues.

Superior-level readers understand texts that use precise, often specialized vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. These texts feature argumentation, supported opinion, and hypothesis, and use abstract linguistic formulations as encountered in academic and professional reading. Such texts are typically reasoned and/or analytic and may frequently contain cultural references.

Superior-level readers are able to understand lengthy texts of a professional, academic, or literary nature. In addition, readers at the Superior level are generally aware of the aesthetic properties of language and of its literary styles, but may not fully understand texts in which cultural references and assumptions are deeply embedded.

ADVANCED

At the Advanced level, readers can understand the main idea and supporting details of authentic narrative and descriptive texts. Readers are able to compensate for limitations in their lexical and structural knowledge by using contextual clues. Comprehension is likewise supported by knowledge of the conventions of the language (e.g., noun/adjective agreement, verb placement, etc.). When familiar with the subject matter, Advanced-level readers are also able to derive some meaning from straightforward argumentative texts (e.g., recognizing the main argument).

Advanced-level readers are able to understand texts that have a clear and predictable structure. For the most part, the prose is uncomplicated and the subject matter pertains to real-world topics of general interest.

Advanced-level readers demonstrate an independence in their ability to read subject matter that is new to them. They have sufficient control of standard linguistic conventions to understand sequencing, time frames, and chronology. However, these readers are likely challenged by texts in which issues are treated abstractly.

Advanced High

At the Advanced High sublevel, readers are able to understand, fully and with ease, conventional narrative and descriptive texts of any length as well as more complex factual material. They are able to follow some of the essential points of argumentative texts in areas of special interest or knowledge. In addition, they are able to understand parts of texts that deal with unfamiliar topics or situations. These readers are able to go beyond comprehension of the facts in a text, and to begin to recognize author-intended inferences. An emerging awareness of the aesthetic properties of language and of its literary styles permits comprehension of a wide variety of texts. Misunderstandings may occur when reading texts that are structurally and/or conceptually more complex.

Advanced Mid

At the Advanced Mid sublevel, readers are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things and narrations about past, present, and future events. These texts reflect the standard linguistic conventions of the written form of the language in such a way that readers can predict what they are going to read. Readers understand the main ideas, facts, and many supporting details. Comprehension derives not only from situational and subject-matter knowledge but also from knowledge of the language itself. Readers at this level may derive some meaning from texts that are structurally and/or conceptually more complex.

Advanced Low

At the Advanced Low sublevel, readers are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts with a clear underlying structure though their comprehension may be uneven. These texts predominantly contain high-frequency vocabulary and structures. Readers understand the main ideas and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge. Readers at this level will be challenged to comprehend more complex texts.

INTERMEDIATE

At the Intermediate level, readers can understand information conveyed in simple, predictable, loosely connected texts. Readers rely heavily on contextual clues. They can most easily understand information if the format of the text is familiar, such as in a weather report or a social announcement.

Intermediate-level readers are able to understand texts that convey basic information such as that found in announcements, notices, and online bulletin boards and forums. These texts are not complex and have a predictable pattern of presentation. The discourse is minimally connected and primarily organized in individual sentences and strings of sentences containing predominantly high-frequency vocabulary.

Intermediate-level readers are most accurate when getting meaning from simple, straightforward texts. They are able to understand messages found in highly familiar, everyday contexts. At this level, readers may not fully understand texts that are detailed or those texts in which knowledge of language structures is essential in order to understand sequencing, time frame, and chronology.

Intermediate High
At the Intermediate High sublevel, readers are able to understand fully and with ease short, non-complex texts that convey basic information and deal with personal and social topics to which the reader brings personal interest or knowledge. These readers are also able to understand some connected texts featuring description and narration although there will be occasional gaps in understanding due to a limited knowledge of the vocabulary, structures, and writing conventions of the language.

Intermediate Mid
At the Intermediate Mid sublevel, readers are able to understand short, non-complex texts that convey basic information and deal with basic personal and social topics to which the reader brings personal interest or knowledge, although some misunderstandings may occur. Readers at this level may get some meaning from short connected texts featuring description and narration, dealing with familiar topics.

Intermediate Low
At the Intermediate Low sublevel, readers are able to understand some information from the simplest connected texts dealing with a limited number of personal and social needs, although there may be frequent misunderstandings. Readers at this level will be challenged to derive meaning from connected texts of any length.

NOVICE

At the Novice level, readers can understand key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases that are highly contextualized.

Novice-level readers are able to get a limited amount of information from highly predictable texts in which the topic or context is very familiar, such as a hotel bill, a credit card receipt, or a weather map. Readers at the Novice level may rely heavily on their own background knowledge and extralinguistic support (such as the imagery on the weather map or the format of a credit card bill) to derive meaning.

Readers at the Novice level are best able to understand a text when they are able to anticipate the information in the text. At the Novice level, recognition of key words, cognates, and formulaic phrases makes comprehension possible.

Novice High

At the Novice High sublevel, readers can understand, fully and with relative ease, key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases across a range of highly contextualized texts. Where vocabulary has been learned, they can understand predictable language and messages such as those found on train schedules, roadmaps, and street signs. Readers at the Novice High sublevel are typically able to derive meaning from short, non-complex texts that convey basic information for which there is contextual or extralinguistic support.

Novice Mid

At the Novice Mid sublevel, readers are able to recognize the letters or symbols of an alphabetic or syllabic writing system or a limited number of characters in a character-based language. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.

Novice Low

At the Novice Low sublevel, readers are able to recognize a limited number of letters, symbols or characters. They are occasionally able to identify high-frequency words and/or phrases when strongly supported by context.