

State-Mandated Oral Proficiency Requirement for Teachers of World Languages

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requires that all teacher candidates pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) for each subject area in which they wish to be certified (i.e., their teaching majors and/or minors). In addition to passing the MTTC, candidates who wish to be certified to teach world languages are now required to meet oral proficiency standards. After May 1, 2010, candidates will no longer be recommended for certification in a world language unless they have met the oral proficiency standard established for that language.

The requirement also has implications for the internship. Secondary education students with world language *majors* must meet the standard as a condition for progressing to the internship. Secondary education students with world language *minors* and elementary education students with world language majors or minors will not be eligible for internship placements in world languages unless they have met the standard.

At MSU, oral proficiency tests in each language are administered by the Center for the Support of Language Teaching. Students will find a testing schedule on the Center's website (<http://languagesupport.msu.edu>). Questions and requests for appointments should be addressed to Alicia Rice at 432-6770 or riceal@cal.msu.edu.

Oral proficiency can be demonstrated by meeting the state's standard on one of several tests, including one developed at MSU. All of the approved tests are variations on – or simulations of – the more widely recognized “ACTFL” test offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. For students who plan to teach in other states or to do something other than teach their language, the ACTFL might be a better choice. For more information about the ACTFL, visit <http://www.actfl.org>, <http://actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3348>, and <http://www.languagetesting.com/academic.cfm>