

Spanish Interpretation and Translation for Health Professions Minor

Goal: Establish Oral Language Proficiency Benchmark

Goal Description:

Prior to enrolling in Spanish Interpretation and Translation for Health Professions (SITH) minor courses, students must meet a minimum ACTFL proficiency level of Advanced Low as assessed through OPIc testing. This initial benchmark was selected based on the ACTFL guidelines for Oral Proficiency Levels in the Workplace (2015; attached).

WOLC will review the assessment literature related to languages for specific purposes to determine the appropriate **oral language proficiency** benchmark for students completing this minor. WOLC will also evaluate the utility of using more cost-effective testing measures (i.e., AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish).

Attached Files

 [OralProficiencyWorkplacePoster.pdf](#)

Providing Department: Spanish Interpretation and Translation for Health Professions Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Oral Language Proficiency Benchmark

Learning Objective Description:

WOLC will review the literature on assessment for languages for specific purposes and identify an appropriate **oral language proficiency** benchmark for students completing the SITH minor.

WOLC will compare the utility of the OPIc and AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish for assessing student outcomes.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator: Oral Language Proficiency Benchmark

Indicator Description:

WOLC will use best practices in linguistics research methodology to collect literature on assessment of languages for specific purposes. The department will conduct a meta-analysis of the literature to identify assessment methods and benchmarks for **oral language proficiency** assessment.

WOLC will use best practices in linguistics research methodology to collect literature on the utility of commercially available assessments (e.g., OPIc and AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish) to evaluate **oral language proficiency**. The department will conduct a meta-analysis of the literature to identify best practices for using these assessment measures, or whether the department should seek alternative assessment measures.

Criterion Description:

WOLC will establish an **oral language proficiency** assessment benchmark and measure for graduating SITH minors.

WOLC will compare OPIc and AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish for testing **oral language proficiency**.

Findings Description:

WOLC's meta-analysis of commercially available oral proficiency tests indicates that the AVANT testing program will include the best instruments for assessing the language proficiency of graduating SITH minors. However, due to extremely long delays in implementation, AVANT STAMP was not available to students during the previous cycle. This measure will be implemented in the next cycle with a sample of graduating seniors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action: Oral Language Proficiency Benchmark

Action Description:

WOLC is THRILLED to report that the AVANT testing program is now available on campus. We will organize assessment of a sample of graduating seniors, and the data regarding their oral proficiency will be reported at the end of the 2024-2025 cycle. This assessment cycle will help us determine whether to use the currently available AVANT test or to expand to AVANT Medical Spanish.

Goal: Establish Written Language Proficiency Benchmark

Goal Description:

While students enrolling in Spanish Interpretation and Translation for Health Professions (SITH) minor courses have an oral proficiency benchmark for entrance, no such benchmark has been established for written language because of students' status as Heritage Spanish Learners. These students have typically been excluded from formal education in written Spanish and, therefore, their written proficiency varies widely.

WOLC will review the assessment literature related to languages for specific purposes to determine the appropriate **written language proficiency** benchmark for students completing this minor. WOLC will also evaluate the utility of using AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish for this purpose.

Providing Department: Spanish Interpretation and Translation for Health Professions Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Written Language Proficiency Benchmark

Learning Objective Description:

WOLC will review the literature on assessment for languages for specific purposes and identify an appropriate **written language proficiency** benchmark for students completing the SITH minor.

WOLC will evaluate the utility of the AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish for assessing student outcomes.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator: Written Language Proficiency Benchmark

Indicator Description:

WOLC will use best practices in linguistics research methodology to collect literature on assessment of languages for specific purposes. The department will conduct a meta-analysis of the literature to identify assessment methods and benchmarks for **written language proficiency** assessment.

WOLC will use best practices in linguistics research methodology to collect literature on the utility of commercially available assessments (e.g., AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish) to evaluate **written language proficiency**. The department will conduct a meta-analysis of the literature to identify best practices for using these assessment measures, or whether the department should seek alternative assessment measures.

Criterion Description:

WOLC will establish a **written language proficiency** assessment benchmark and measure for graduating SITH minors.

WOLC will evaluate the utility of the AVANT STAMP Medical Spanish for testing **written language proficiency**.

Findings Description:

WOLC's meta-analysis of commercially available writing tests indicates that the AVANT testing program will include the best instruments for assessing the language proficiency of graduating SITH minors. However, due to extremely long delays in implementation, AVANT STAMP was not available to students during the previous cycle. This measure will be implemented in the next cycle with a sample of graduating seniors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action: Written Language Proficiency Benchmark

Action Description:

WOLC is THRILLED to report that the AVANT testing program is now available on campus. We will organize assessment of a sample of graduating seniors, and the data regarding their written proficiency will be reported at the end of the 2024-2025 cycle. This assessment cycle will also help us determine whether to use the currently available AVANT test or to expand to AVANT Medical Spanish.

New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

This is a new unit for the 2023-2024 cycle. No previous PCI available.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

This is a new unit for the 2023-2024 cycle. No previous PCI available.

See proposed PCI.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

After several challenging years for implementing assessment metrics, WOLC is confident that the department will be able to carry out a complete assessment of graduating SITH minors using the AVANT testing program. WOLC has established a two-part language proficiency goal for the 2024-2025 cycle for the SITH minor program:

- 1) Implement **oral proficiency** testing using the AVANT testing program. Determine whether department should adopt the STAMP Medical testing program to evaluate **oral proficiency**.
- 2) Implement **written proficiency** testing using the AVANT testing program. Determine whether department should adopt the STAMP Medical testing program to evaluate **written proficiency**.