

## Foreign Language Requirement in GPIS

The GPIS Program would very much like to see you succeed in satisfying the Foreign Language Requirement (FLR) early in your graduate career. For the purposes of meeting the FLR in GPIS, all Master and Doctoral candidates should demonstrate language proficiency at the third-year college level by achieving the following reading skills:

1. PROFICIENCY STANDARDS: According to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines used in the Foreign Language Examinations.

Intermediate High: Readers should be able to read consistently with full understanding simple connected texts dealing with basic personal and social needs about which the reader has personal interest and/or knowledge. Reader can get some main ideas and information from texts at the next higher level featuring description and narration. Structural complexity may interfere with comprehension; for example, basic grammatical relations may be misinterpreted and temporal references may rely primarily on lexical items. Has some difficulty with the cohesive factors in discourse, such as matching pronouns with referents. While texts do not differ significantly from those at the Advanced level, comprehension is less consistent. Readers may have to read material several times for understanding.

2. PLACEMENT EXAM: Master and Doctoral candidates should take the Foreign Language Exam in the language of their choice in their first year at Old Dominion University. This would serve as a pre-test to see how well the student would score. If the score is lower than the required 75%, the student would need to submit a written plan to the GPIS advisor and the Foreign Language Department Chair as to how s/he would work to achieve the required proficiency level to fulfill the FLR. Students are encouraged to re-take the exam to assess their progress. However, please keep in mind that the exam can only be re-taken once every three months.

3. OPTIONS: The following are options for satisfying the FLR in GPIS

- a) French, German, Spanish

Option A: FR/GER/SPAN 311, FR/GER/SPAN 312 [minimum grade of B-]

Option B: Above courses through the Office of Experiential Learning

Option C: Single skill reading exam; multiple choice responses to be taken in the Language Learning Center [75% passing score]

- b) Chinese, Japanese, Russian

Option A: CHIN/JAPN 311, CHIN/JAPN 312 [minimum grade of B-]

RUS 305, RUS 3ELE [minimum grade of B-]

Option B: Above courses through the Office of Experiential Learning

Option C: Single skill reading exam: Translation [75% passing score; extract of 2-3 newspaper or news magazine articles]

c) Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Italian [languages not taught at the 300-level]  
Option C: Single skill reading exam: Translation [75% passing score; extract of 2-3 newspaper or news magazine articles]

d) International students with a mother tongue other than English may receive a waiver from the Foreign Languages Department Chair provided they submit documentation (high school diploma, for example) that demonstrates aptitude in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

4. Ph.D. candidates should fulfill the FLR before scheduling the Comprehensive Examination.

5. Masters candidates may take the FLR either before or after their Comprehensive Exams, but must pass before their graduate tenure expires. It is highly recommended that the FLR be completed before taking the Comprehensive Exams.