

**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**  
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Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
B.A. in French, German, Russian, Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of grades in designated advanced courses<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Scores and pass rates from Oklahoma State Teacher Certification exams (French, German, and Spanish only)<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 in French</li> <li>• 15 in German</li> <li>• 12 in Russian</li> <li>• 68 in Spanish</li> <li>• 3 in French</li> <li>• 5 in Spanish</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> These figures include the grades of all students who completed the monitored courses. Since student confidentiality requires anonymity, however, it is likely that some students may have been enrolled in more than 1 of these courses.

<sup>2</sup> These figures include only the OSU foreign language majors who take the state exam. Other OSU students who take these exams for certification without actually studying the language in our program are not included.

**Analysis and Findings**

1. Required Advanced Courses

- a. Of the 25 students who completed the monitored French courses, 12 received A's and 11 received B's, along with 1 Incomplete and 1 W.
- b. Of the 15 students who completed the monitored German courses, 8 received A's, 4 received B's, 1 received a D, and there were 2 W's.
- c. Of the 12 students who completed the monitored Russian courses, 9 received A's and 1 received a B, along with 1 Incomplete and 1 W.
- d. Of the 68 students who completed the monitored Spanish courses, 27 received A's, 20 received B's, 14 received C's, and 3 received D's; there were 3 W's.

These grades, nearly all C (satisfactory) or better, meet the stated expectations for advanced students in upper-division courses.

2. Scores and Pass Rates from the Oklahoma State Teacher Certification Exam.

- a. French
  - 2 out of 3 French students passed, with an average total scaled mean score of 243.3 compared to an average statewide mean of 250.3. This OSU pass rate is comparable to the statewide pass rate of 71% for that exam.
  - On the 11/22/03 certification exam, our departmental means exceeded the statewide means in only 1 of the areas examined: Cultural Understanding and Language Acquisition. Our students fell below the statewide means in Listening Comprehension, Reading and Vocabulary, Language Structures, Written Expression, and Oral Expression. These low means are primarily due to the failure of 1 of the 3 French students taking the exam; of the two remaining students, 1 exceeded the statewide in 3 of the 6 areas examined and the other exceeded it in 5 out of the 6.

b. Spanish

- 5 out of 5 Spanish students passed.
- On the 9/20/03 certification exam, the 1 departmental student received a total score of 282, compared to the statewide mean of 257.7. This student exceeded the statewide means in all 6 of the areas examined.
- On the 11/22/03 certification exam, 3 out of the 4 Spanish students exceeded the statewide total mean score. 3 out of the 4 students exceeded the statewide means in 3 of the 6 areas examined: Cultural Understanding and Language Acquisition, Written Expression, and Oral Expression.

The very small number of students who took the certification exams during the 2003-2004 academic year makes it difficult to draw any valid conclusions from their scores. As noted above, the below-average mean scores in French are primarily due to 1 student's poor performance. In Spanish, the strong results in Written Expression and Oral Expression validate the department's decision to offer separate advanced courses in composition and conversation, which formerly were taught together and less thoroughly.

### Uses of Assessments Results

1. The department continues to encourage and assist students in participating in study abroad programs and in supporting interested students' pursuit of scholarships and other financial aid.
  - Our departmental scholarships make study abroad possible for students each year.
  - The department chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish honorary fraternity, has successfully nominated several of its students for scholarships awarded by the national organization.
  - We initiated an OSU Summer Study Abroad program in Puebla, Mexico, which offers intermediate and advanced courses as well as a full-immersion cultural experience to participating students.
  - The department continues to offer (through Extension) a summer study/travel program in France.
2. The Spanish section continues to emphasize conversation to a greater degree than in earlier years; it now regularly offers two sections of advanced conversation each semester in response to student demand. This change has been well-received, and we believe that our students' improved performance on the Oral Expression section of the state certification exam reflects this.
3. This year the department has sponsored a "Spanish floor" in Wentz Residence Hall. This living unit gives interested students the opportunity to converse in Spanish with other residents and with the floor adviser (an instructor in Spanish); the floor also hosts cultural activities and discussion groups led by Spanish faculty members.
4. The department has purchased a new audio-visual computer system for the Language Lab, with greater interactive capacities for student language practice.
5. In response to student demand, the department is now offering up to 8 upper-division Spanish course sections each semester, broadening its literature and culture offerings along with the advanced skills courses (composition, conversation, phonetics).
6. The contrast between the Spanish student grades earned in Advanced Conversation and Advanced Grammar and Composition suggests that added emphasis on grammar acquisition is indicated at the beginning and intermediate levels.
7. Given the well-known difficulties involved in teaching grammar to students educated in contemporary public schools, it is problematic to do so successfully in classes of 30 or more students, as is regularly the case in Spanish. The kind of intensive instruction (including drill) necessary for good grammar acquisition can only take place in smaller classes, and it should be noted that the analytical skills learned in the study of grammar carry over into virtually any intellectual endeavor. The department will investigate the possibility of reducing maximum enrollments in these courses.