

EAYA World Languages Candidates Prerequisite FAQ

1. What is new for EAYA World Languages candidates?

World Languages candidates must now meet the National Board World Languages Standards for language proficiency by providing official ACTFL Speaking and Writing Proficiency Certificates of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) with a rating at or above the required level.

Candidates starting the certification process in 2014 or later are required to obtain ACTFL certificates with ratings of Advanced Low or higher from ACTFL assessments of speaking proficiency and writing proficiency. ACTFL certification of Advanced Low or higher from any version of the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT), such as OPIc, Advanced Level Check – Speaking and Advanced Level Check – Writing, will be accepted.

If a candidate already has the required ACTFL certifications in speaking and writing, and **the issue dates are no more than two years prior to the published deadline of their initial year of candidacy (the year they purchased their first component and did not withdraw)**, they can submit those certifications as evidence of having met the prerequisite. If a candidate has not yet obtained the required ACTFL certification, they have until the deadline of June 30 in the year they complete their initial attempt of all four National Board components to do so. The two separate ACTFL certifications do not need to have the same certification issue date.

2. As an EAYA World Languages candidate, why am I required to complete language proficiency testing?

Language proficiency is part of the National Board Standards for World Languages. In the previous assessment, language proficiency was measured in the content knowledge assessment. The revised assessment broadened the coverage of content and pedagogical knowledge and skills in Component 1: Content Knowledge, and language proficiency is now being measured by ACTFL assessments. The use of ACTFL assessments provides National Board candidates with valid and reliable language proficiency certifications and is similar to language proficiency certification required in teacher licensure.

3. Will the ACTFL certifications take the place of Component 1 for World Languages candidates?

World Languages candidates must also complete Component 1: Content Knowledge as it represents a large domain within the National Board Standards. The EAYA/World Languages Component 1 selected response items will focus on Standard I, Knowledge of Language and Standard IV, Knowledge of Language Acquisition. The EAYA/World Languages constructed response items will assess the following: Knowledge of Language Acquisition, Culture, and Knowledge of Language Learning.

ACTFL certifications will assess oral and writing proficiency. Component 1: Content Knowledge will assess content and pedagogical knowledge and skill.

4. What's the value to World Languages candidates and the profession?

There are a number of benefits to World Languages candidates and the profession at-large:

- Results in expanding evidence of a National Board Certified Teacher's content and pedagogical knowledge.
- Supports the testing of critical content and pedagogical knowledge within the National Board's redesigned assessment framework in a way that could not be measured without additional exam items, testing time and significant costs if language proficiency remained embedded in the National Board assessment.
- Opens the opportunity to add additional languages to World Languages certification in the future and have the certification represent a more inclusive number of languages and building community within and across schools.

5. What if I already have ACTFL certifications?

If a candidate already has the required ACTFL certifications with ratings of Advanced Low or higher in speaking and writing, and the issue dates **are no more than two years prior** to the published deadline of their initial year of candidacy for National Board Certification, they can submit those certifications as evidence of having met the prerequisite.

Candidates must provide copies of their current ACTFL certificates via email to NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com. The candidate must include their name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of their ACTFL certificates in the email. ACTFL certificates from both speaking and writing proficiency assessments must be submitted at the same time.

See the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for additional information on eligibility requirements.

6. How will my ACTFL Certification be verified?

There are two ways National Board can verify ACTFL certification depending on when candidates obtain(ed) ACTFL certification.

- If a candidate obtains ACTFL certifications after April 1, 2016, National Board will verify their certification directly with the ACTFL Testing office (LTI), the organization that administers the ACTFL assessments.
- If a candidate already has the required ACTFL certificates for the speaking and writing proficiency assessments, and the issue date is no more than two years prior to the published deadline of their initial year of candidacy, they can provide copies of those certificates as evidence of having met the prerequisite.

Candidates' ACTFL certificates are still valid for fulfilling the National Board Certification prerequisite if they registered in:

- 2016-17 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2015;
- 2015-16 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2014; or
- 2014-15 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2013.

If candidates' ACTFL certificates are still valid, they should send an email to NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com and include their name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of their ACTFL certificates. ACTFL certificates from both the speaking and writing proficiency assessments must be emailed at the same time.

Note: Documentation of your ACTFL certifications will not be accepted by the National Board until your initial registration is complete, including submitting payment of the nonrefundable and nontransferable \$75 registration fee.

7. When will I have to obtain ACTFL certifications?

Certification can be obtained as early as the date a candidate first registers to become a candidate up until the deadline of June 30 in the year they complete their initial attempt of all four National Board components.

The issue dates of candidates' ACTFL certificates must be no more than two years prior to the published deadline of their initial year of candidacy (*the year they purchased their first component and did not withdraw*).

ACTFL Certification Deadlines by Assessment Cycle								
Initial Assessment Cycle	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	ACTFL Certification Deadline
2014-15		X	X	**				June 30, 2017
2015-16			X	**				June 30, 2017
2015-16			X	X	**			June 30, 2018
2016-17				**				June 30, 2017
2016-17				X	**			June 30, 2018
2016-17				X	X	**		June 30, 2019
2017-18					**			June 30, 2018
2017-18					X	**		June 30, 2019
2017-18					X	X	**	June 30, 2020

X - candidate attempted at least one component; ** - candidate submitted final component

It is recommended that World Languages candidates obtain their ACTFL certifications in speaking and writing as soon as possible after registering as a candidate and well in advance of completing your initial attempt of all four National Board components. If candidates have not obtained ACTFL certifications with ratings of Advanced Low or higher before the deadline of June 30 in the year they complete their initial attempt of all four components, they risk having their certification held or their candidacy terminated even if they have met all other National Board assessment score requirements.

See the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for additional information on eligibility requirements and deadline for obtaining and submitted ACTFL certifications.

8. Will I have to pay for ACTFL assessments?

The National Board, in partnership with ACTFL, will provide each candidate who registers in the 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 cycles **with one free attempt of both** the OPIc Advanced Level Check and WPT Advanced Level Check to offset costs. The ACTFL certifications do not need to have been obtained on the same date. **Only the Advanced Level Check format will be available at no cost during the assessment cycles mentioned above.**

For National Board World Languages candidates needing to retake the ACTFL assessment(s) after their free OPIc Advanced Level Check and WPT Advanced Level Check because they did not qualify at the Advanced Low level, ACTFL is offering a discounted price of \$60.00 (US dollars) to National Board candidates who retake either the ACTFL Advanced Level Check – Speaking or ACTFL Advanced Level Check- Writing through the 2016-17 cycle.

National Board is still negotiating the cost of ACTFL certifications for candidates beginning National Board Certification in 2017-18.

9. If I did not meet the Advanced Low or higher score requirement, how soon can I retake the ACTFL assessments?

ACTFL policy states that test takers have a one-time waiver to re-test immediately; however, thereafter test takers have to wait 90 days before attempting to re-test. Under this ACTFL re-test policy, National Board World Languages candidates will be able to test two times within 90 days without restriction.

10. What are the ACTFL Advanced Level Checks?

Both the OPIc Advanced Level Check and WPT Advanced Level Check are internet-delivered tests that test can be taken on demand at a time convenient to the candidate and the proctor. Advanced Level Checks specifically target performance up to and including the Advanced Low level. The Advanced Level Checks are not intended to, nor will they, provide a level rating above the Advanced Low level.

OPIc Advanced Level Check

The Advanced Level Check version of the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview-computer, or OPIc, is an assessment of spoken language proficiency designed to elicit a sample of speech via recorded, computer-adapted voice prompts. This assessment specifically targets performance up to and including the Advanced level. At that level, candidates are typically able to produce paragraph-length responses with enough control of the language to deliver narrations and descriptions, so listeners without experience with non-native speakers can understand them. During the assessment, the candidate will be asked general questions about his or her education, experience, hobbies, interests, etc., in a conversational format. The candidate may also be asked to participate in one or more role-play situations, in which he or she will have to act out a real-world situation that must be resolved by communicating clearly, gathering information, and providing solutions in the language being tested.

WPT Advanced Level Check

The Advanced Level Check version of the ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test, or WPT, is a standardized test for the assessment of functional writing abilities in a language. This assessment specifically targets performance up to and including the Advanced level. At that level, candidates are typically able to produce paragraph-length written responses with enough control of the language to deliver narrations and descriptions, so listeners without experience with non-native writers can understand them. The ACTFL WPT Advanced Level Check measures how well a person spontaneously writes in a language (without access to dictionaries or grammar references). The assessment requires candidates to use the standard written form of the target language to produce responses that deal with practical, social, and professional topics encountered in real-world informal and formal situations.

11. How Do I schedule the ACTFL Assessments?

Beginning April 2016, the National Board will provide the ACTFL Testing office (LTI) with a list of approved World Languages candidates who have registered for National Board Certification on or before that date. The National Board will provide LTI an updated list every month.

During the first week of every month, LTI will send an email to each newly approved candidate which includes a proctor agreement and computer requirements (internet access, headset, microphone).

- Each candidate will arrange a proctor and have the proctor agreement completed. The completed proctor agreement should be sent to LTI via fax at 914-963-7113 or via email to sales@languagetesting.com.
- Once your proctor agreement is received, LTI will schedule* your tests. Within 2-3 business days of receiving the proctor agreement, the tests will be activated.
- LTI will send test login information and computer requirements to the candidate's proctor. There will be two separate emails and two separate logins for the two tests.

**Tests are available on demand, and are not technically scheduled with LTI, they are merely activated. Candidates generally are given two weeks in which to coordinate with their proctors and complete the tests.*

What steps should I take to schedule my ACTFL assessments?

Step 1: Identify the proctor who will administer your testing.

Ideally the proctor will be a member of the Human Resources department of the organization of the candidate requesting the assessment. In addition, the proctor must have a work email containing his/her name and school name. Personal email addresses for proctors are not accepted.

Below are the criteria for eligible proctors:

K-12 Schools and School District Proctors:

A proctor at a K-12 school or school district may only be a Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean, Administrative Assistant to the Principal or Dean, School District HR personnel, or Academic Chair. No other administrators or staff may act as proctors.

University or College Proctors:

A proctor at a college may be a Professor, Department Chair, Department Administrative Assistant or Department Coordinator, or Registrar and University Assessment Personnel. No other administrators or staff may act as proctors.

Step 2: Return completed ACTFL Internet Test Proctoring Agreement

The welcome email from LTI will include a proctor agreement that must be completed and sent back to LTI in order for your assessments to become available.

Step 3: Schedule test administration date and location with your proctor

Within 2-3 business days of LTI's receipt of the proctor agreement, the candidate's proctor will receive an email on how to access the candidate's ACTFL assessments. The assessments will be available for administration as soon as their proctor has received that email. The assessments will be delivered via the Internet and on any secure computer that meets the minimum technical specifications detailed [here](#).

12. How will I be notified of my ACTFL Advanced Level Check ratings?

An electronic certificate will be emailed to you from Language Testing International. The certificate will display whether you are rated as Qualified or Not Qualified at the Advanced Low level based on your performance on the Advanced Level Check. Advanced Level Checks specifically target performance up to and including the Advanced Low level. The Advanced Level Checks are not intended to, nor will they, provide a level rating above the Advanced Low level.

13. How were National Board Certified Teachers involved in this policy change?

National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) formed the basis of the group that completed and supported the alignment between the ACTFL assessments and the National Board World Languages Standards. Approval of the ACTFL certification was gained through policy review by the National Board's Certification Council and Board of Directors, both of which contain NBCTs.

See the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for additional information on eligibility requirements for World Languages candidates.