

## **EAYA World Languages Candidates Prerequisite FAQ**

### **1. What are the EAYA World Languages requirements related to ACTFL?**

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

Candidates must obtain ACTFL certificates with ratings of Advanced Low or higher on ACTFL’s speaking proficiency and writing proficiency assessments. 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 certifications**, they have until 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 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. The 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 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 skills.

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

The ACTFL requirement provides 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 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 you already have 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 your initial year of candidacy for National Board Certification, you can submit those certifications as evidence of having met the prerequisite. Submit copies of your current ACTFL certificates to [NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com](mailto:NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com). Include your name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of your 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 will verify ACTFL certification of Advanced Low or higher depending on when you obtain(ed) ACTFL certification.

- If you obtained ACTFL certifications after April 1, 2016, you should submit copies of your ACTFL certificates to [NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com](mailto:NBPTSCandidateSupport@Pearson.com). You must include your name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of your ACTFL certificates. ACTFL certificates from both speaking and writing proficiency assessments must be submitted at the same time.
- If a you already have 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, you can provide copies of those certificates as evidence of having met the prerequisite (see above).

*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 \$75 registration fee.*

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## 7. By 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).

Assessment Cycle in which Component(s) Taken								
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/all four component (s)

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 deadlines for obtaining and submitted ACTFL certifications.

## 8. What is the cost for ACTFL assessments?

The National Board, in partnership with ACTFL, will provide each candidate a discounted price of \$60.00 plus a \$35.00 remote proctoring fee to take or retake either the ACTFL Advanced Level Check – Speaking or ACTFL Advanced Level Check – Writing. Candidates should register for retakes at [www.languagetesting.com/take-a-test](http://www.languagetesting.com/take-a-test).

## **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 National Board candidates have to wait 30 days before attempting to re-test.

## **10. How Do I schedule the ACTFL Assessments?**

If you are a National Board candidate who began the certification process in the 2014-15 assessment cycle or will be completing your initial attempt on all four components by the 2016-17 cycle, schedule your appointments today by calling LTI Customer Service at 1-800-486-8444 before June 30, 2017.

To register for an account, begin by [clicking here](#).

1. Select **“Buy a Test”** to buy a test and create an account.
2. Click on **“Get Started”**
3. Select **“No”** for **“Are you testing for State Teacher Certification”**
4. Enter Institution **“National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – Individual”**

If you already have an account, begin by [clicking here](#).

1. Enter Email Address and Password then click on **“Login”**.
2. From your account, click on **“Apply for an ACTFL Test”** at the top of the screen under **“ACTFL TEST APPLICATION”**
3. Click on **“Get Started”**
4. Select **“No”** for **“Are you testing for State Teacher Certification”**
5. Enter Institution **“National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – Individual”**

Follow the prompts to continue through the test registration system. Your ratings will be emailed to you and will be available to the National Board.

For assistance, contact Language Testing International at (800) 486-8444, ext. 751, or email [customercare@languagetesting.com](mailto:customercare@languagetesting.com).

*\*Tests are available on demand, and are not technically scheduled with LTI, they are merely activated.*

## **11. How will I be notified of my ACTFL ratings/certifications?**

An electronic certificate will be emailed to you from Language Testing International. The certificate will display your rating on the ACTFL scale.

## **12. 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.