

The Honors College Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement

I. Are you enrolled in CHIN/FREN/GER/ITAL/JAPN or SPAN 204 this semester and currently receiving a “B” or better in the course? If the answer is yes, you’re ready to take the STAMP Test.

Important Dates for Fall Semester 2009:

- ❖ **Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 2009:** Sign up for the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) Test in Thompson 210.
- ❖ **4:00-7:00 pm, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009:** Administration of the STAMP Test in Thompson 210.
- ❖ Notification of results of the STAMP Test by e-mail approximately two weeks following the exam.

Important Dates for Spring Semester 2010:

- ❖ **April 19-23, 2010:** Sign up for the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) Test in Thompson 210.
- ❖ **4:00-7:00 pm, Friday, April 30, 2010:** Administration of the STAMP Test in Thompson 210.
- ❖ Notification of results of the STAMP Test by e-mail approximately two weeks following the exam.

II. Are you currently enrolled in CHIN/FREN/GER/ITAL/JAPN/RUS/SPAN 101, 102, 203 and making good progress in the course? If the answer is yes, you can:

- ❖ Continue your study of the language at WSU by enrolling in the next course in the four-semester sequence.
- ❖ Explore study abroad and/or internship options with your Honors advisor, your major advisor, your foreign language teacher, or Education Abroad to identify programs that would allow you to continue improving your proficiency in the language and prepare to take the STAMP Test.

III. If you want to take the STAMP test but are pursuing an alternative path to fluency (i.e. internships, study abroad, etc.) or have significant background in a foreign language, you are required to submit an Honors College Foreign Language Proficiency Portfolio by **October 31, 2009 for the December 11th STAMP Session** or by **March 31, 2010 for the April 30th STAMP Session** to Thompson Hall 110 containing:

- ❖ Honors College Foreign-Language Proficiency LANGUAGE BACKGROUND
- ❖ Honors College Foreign-Language Proficiency Checklist
- ❖ LinguaFolio Self-Assessments for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing
- ❖ An action plan detailing how you plan to achieve the required proficiency level
- ❖ Three pieces of evidence demonstrating achievement of required proficiency level, and a reflective statement for each piece of evidence in which you articulate how the evidence illustrates proficiency level achievement

If you have any questions regarding the completion of your Honors Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement, please contact Dr. Rachel Halverson (rachel_halverson@wsu.edu).

Information on the STAMP Test and the Honors College Foreign Language Proficiency

This test measures your current proficiency level in the foreign language. Honors College students are expected to achieve and demonstrate proficiency as follows:

- Intermediate-Low (4): French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Novice-Mid (3): Chinese, Japanese

We encourage you to visit the STAMP test web site at <http://www.stamptest.net/stamp0708/stamptest/> if you wish to learn more about it. Once on the web site, click on the "Student Guide" on the left bar to read more about the test (objectives, format, topics, etc.). They also provide some practice test demos to help familiarize you with the format.

On the STAMP test:

The STAMP test is available for students in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish, and focuses on reading, writing, and speaking language skills. It measures student achievement and places students according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) national proficiency guidelines, in use in most of our school systems. It tests levels from Novice-Low through Intermediate-Mid, which are identified as benchmark levels 1-5 in their system. Those levels allow us to either certify that you have achieved the specific proficiency level required for your language, or to place you in appropriate courses that will ensure you achieve that level as soon as possible.

In addition, we include here some of their statements that we feel will be helpful to you:

- STAMP test items require the student to demonstrate that they are proficient using the language and are developed from authentic and semi-authentic texts. Students interact with these texts in a "real world" context. For instance, a student may be presented with an actual bus schedule and asked to select the appropriate route and departure time required to arrive at a particular location in time for a concert. In addition, an understanding of second language culture is conveyed in connection with the task and text itself. Multiple topics are covered in each level and students are measured not only by achievement level, but data on their strengths and weaknesses by topic is also provided.
- Students can take the STAMP demo available in their web site to familiarize themselves with the Web-based testing experience. While the presentation of authentic items may be new to some students, the proficiency skills measured by STAMP will accurately reflect the skills the student has acquired regardless of the manner in which the curriculum has been presented.
- During the Speaking portion of the test, STAMP will time-out if there is no submittal for 10 minutes. In that case, you should simply log-in again to proceed from where you left off. You will be allowed to submit one speech sample each time, so take a bit of time to consider what you would like to say, and then proceed.

Honors College Language Proficiency Information:

An Intermediate Low level of proficiency is required for French, German, Italian, and Spanish. A Novice Mid level of proficiency is required for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. According to the Defense Language Institute, French, Italian, and Spanish are Category I languages, German is a Category II language, Russian is a Category III language, and Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese are Category IV languages. Based on "Reasonable Expectations: Oral Proficiency Goals for Intermediate-Level Students of German" and in consultation with Dr. Ali Moeller, the required proficiency levels for students in the WSU Honors College were identified.