

French Teaching BA Capstone Experience, Project, and Examinations

At or near the end of the BYU French Teaching BA Program, every student completes four capstone requirements:

1. Student Teaching or Teaching Internship
2. Teacher Work Sample (completed during student teaching or teaching internship)
3. Oral Proficiency Interview (a standardized test)
4. Praxis French Test (a standardized test)

Student Teaching or Teaching Internship Secondary Education 476R or 496R (12 credit hours)

Course Description

This course is a full-time, field-based capstone experience that provides students with a semester-long teaching experience (two semesters in the case of an internship) in a public secondary school under the direction of a mentor teacher and with the support of a university supervisor. During this clinical teaching experience students combine subject knowledge with principles of pedagogy in a manner that demonstrates appropriate mastery of *ACTFL Program Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers*. In the course of this teaching experience, students will also explore more deeply the moral dimension of teaching, the purposes of public education, and their own strengths, weaknesses, and dispositions relative to a career in education. Student Teaching and Teaching Internships are evaluated by the mentor teacher and the university supervisory using the BYU Clinical-Practice Assessment System. See link to CPAS.

Teacher Work Sample (TWS)

Project Description

The Teacher Work Sample is a major assignment related to student teaching or internships. The TWS contains seven teaching processes identified by research and best practice as fundamental to improving student learning. Each teaching process is followed by a TWS standard, pertinent INTASC standards addressed, the task, prompts, and a rubric that defines various levels of performance on the TWS standard. The standards and rubrics are used to evaluate the TWS. See link to TWS.

Praxis French Test

Examination Description

The Praxis French Test is a standardized test developed by Educational Testing Service. Many states require passing the Praxis test for teacher certification. According to No Child Left Behind standards, a teacher must pass the Praxis test to be considered “highly qualified.” This is a pass-fail test. The Praxis French test is not intended to assess teaching skills but rather competence in various language skills and knowledge of the cultures of France and French-speaking countries and regions.

The Praxis French test assesses beginning teachers’ understanding of French and the cultures of the countries and regions where French is spoken. The Content Knowledge section consists of 120 multiple-choice questions based on audio recordings and printed materials in French. Some questions (on language analysis) are in English. The knowledge section covers structure of the language, interpretive listening, interpretive reading, and Cultural Perspectives. The Productive Language Skills section consists of nine questions: six questions that require an answer in spoken French and three questions that require a written answer in French. This section covers presentational speaking and presentational writing.

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

Examination Description

The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is a standardized procedure for the global assessment of functional speaking ability. This means that an OPI is a testing method which measures how well a person speaks a language by comparing their performance of specific language tasks with the criteria for each of ten proficiency levels described in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking. The ACTFL OPI takes the form of a carefully structured conversation between a trained and certified interviewer and the person whose speaking proficiency is being assessed. A ratable speech sample is elicited from the interviewee by an individually determined series of questions or comments, which follow an established ACTFL OPI protocol.