

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) for the Seal of Biliteracy

- When registering you will need to select 3 testing dates and a start time for each. Please note that the student will need to be available for **3 hours beyond** each of the start times for scheduling purposes.
- The ACTFL OPI & SOBL assessments are available each Spring from January to March.
- The ACTFL OPI SOBL assessments are available for high school juniors and seniors (grades 11 & 12).
- The Seal of Biliteracy forms target the proficiency range of Novice Low to Advanced Mid.

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) for the Seal of Biliteracy (SOBL) assesses how well a person speaks a language. It is an assessment of the interpersonal listening and speaking communication mode. It is a 20 to 25-minute one-on-one interview between a certified ACTFL tester and an examinee. It is interactive, continuously adapting to each test taker and their speaking abilities. The speaker's language ability is compared to the criteria outlined in the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking](#), and then a proficiency rating is awarded.

OPI SOBL Format

- Phases of the OPI: The OPI begins with a warm-up which consists of greetings, informal exchanges of pleasantries, and conversation openers about topics such as family, hobbies, and school. Based on the warm-up, the OPI tester begins by asking questions that help to identify the proficiency level of the speaker. The tester makes judgments by comparing the test taker's language to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking. The interview concludes when the tester identifies enough evidence to support a proficiency rating. The interview ends with a brief exchange of conversation closers.
- Tasks & Topics: The speaker is presented with tasks and topics that represent the range of proficiency levels from Novice Low to Advanced Mid on the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking](#).
- Time: The average time to complete a SOBL OPI ranges from 20 to 25 minutes.
- Format: The one-on-one interview is conducted over the phone by an ACTFL-certified OPI Tester.

Special Test Ordering Considerations » The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) will be scheduled based on the information provided on the request form. The testing coordinator will be notified of the appointment date and time.

Proctoring the OPI »

- We recommend that a land line be used for the OPI to ensure strong connectivity with the tester. If a land line cannot be accessed, a cellular phone can be used as long as it has good reception.
- Students must be provided with a quiet space where they can complete the OPI without interruption. The OPI will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete but please allow up to 30 minutes. It's important for students to arrive on time. If they are **even 5 minutes late**, that arrival time can result in a "**No Show**" fee of \$60 and the assessment must be rescheduled.
 - At the scheduled time, dial 914-220-0080 or 1-877-314-7042.
 - Following the first prompt, press 1.
 - Then, enter the test access code. (Students will each have a unique access code that is provided once their test has been scheduled.)
 - Wait a few seconds to be connected to the tester.
 - Students that **dial in late** to their appointment may be deemed a "**No Show.**"

After an OPI Have Been Administered

The OPI test are human rated by ACTFL-certified raters. There is a limited pool of ACTFL-certified testers and raters for these less commonly tested languages. As such, please allow up to **three weeks** for ratings to be completed and made available.