

Department of American Studies Language Requirement (January 2015)

The Department of American Studies believes that a well-educated person should develop (at least) moderate reading and/or speaking competence in (at least) one language beyond his or her native language. We require every student to demonstrate such competence in one language as one of the requirements to earn a graduate degree. We are committed to helping students choose a specific language and a means of satisfying the requirement best suited to promote their studies and future career. We encourage students to develop plans for satisfying this requirement in consultation with their preliminary adviser and/or the Director of Graduate Studies as early as possible during their years in the program.

Ph.D. students in American Studies must satisfy the language requirement as a condition of advancing to candidacy, by the end of the third academic year of studies for students who enter with a B.A., by the end of the second academic year for those who enter with an M.A.

M.A. student in Folklore are encouraged to complete the language requirement during their first year of studies and must satisfy it in order to earn their degree.

Means of satisfying the language requirement:

- Pass the Graduate Foreign Language Proficiency Assessment offered by the Graduate School for **Spanish, French, German, Latin, and Italian** each semester: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/gflpa.html>. (Students may wish to enroll in SPAN 601 Spanish for Reading, FREN 601 French for Reading, or GERM 601 and 602 Elementary German for Graduate Students to prepare for the assessment).
- Enroll in and pass with a B or better a language course at the 204 (4th semester) level or higher and any prior courses necessary to reach that level. UNC and our sister institutions offer courses in many languages not covered by the GFLPA, including Cherokee and several African and Slavic languages, with which students could satisfy the requirement by taking courses. (Note that courses numbered below 400 will not count for credit toward the graduate degree.)
- Arrange to be tutored by an expert in the target language, who will attest to the Director of Graduate Studies in writing that the student has attained moderate reading and/or speaking competence.
- In exceptional circumstances, and especially where the student wishes to demonstrate speaking competence that will be used in his or her research, the student may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to have other experience and/or evidence of competence count to satisfy the requirement.
- Native speakers of languages other than English are considered to have completed the requirement by earning a score on the TOEFL exam sufficient to qualify for admission to UNC (or by being exempt from taking the TOEFL according to the rules promulgated by the Graduate School, usually by earning a previous degree at a university where the primary language of instruction is

English) and by completing their coursework and other requirements for the degree in English.

- Students who earned a B.A. with a major in or an M.A. in the study of a language other than English are considered already to have demonstrated the required competence.