Introduction to Modern Languages Assessment

In order to assess the achievements of students in our department, Modern Languages requires our French, German, or Spanish majors to maintain and submit at regular intervals a portfolio which addresses the course work the student performs in completion of the major.

However, at present, some of our portfolios with no audiovisual material that allow us to properly evaluate the oral skills of the students. Some instructors videotape oral presentations in class that are later included in the portfolios. Therefore, we base our assessment on course grades: oral communication is stressed in all levels of language courses in the program. From the beginning levels, students are exposed to the target language in terms of listening and speaking, and they are asked questions and need to provide a logical oral answer or response to those questions. There is no particular course for this goal, although Conversation is the class that best reflects the oral component of the program, along with upper division courses in culture and literature as well as seminars spent abroad studying the target language. The other three SLOs however conveniently stand out in the portfolio and are easily evaluated by instructors who examine the exams, written projects and papers students have selected for inclusion.

A grade of C or better in class is proof of accomplishment.

Modern Languages plans to move to a more selective portfolio which will include an oral defense of the portfolio. This new approach will allow us to simplify the process and guarantee we can have an oral assessment for each student at graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to understand, interpret, discuss and express a variety of written and spoken non-technical topics.
2. Demonstrate the ability to use with accuracy the grammar, syntax and basic vocabulary of the target language.
3. Demonstrate a functional contrastive knowledge of the grammar, syntax and basic idioms of the target language and English.
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10. Demonstrate a functional contrastive knowledge of the grammar, syntax and basic idioms of the target language and English.