Updated 05-09-2017 (vt)

**PhD in Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture: Foreign Language Requirement**

**PhD Requirement**

Students are required to demonstrate foreign language or research skill competency by the time they begin to write the dissertation. There are different ways to achieve and demonstrate this competency:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide an **official transcript** that certifies that secondary or higher education was completed in a language other than English. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the Department of Modern Languages with all necessary, untranslated, official documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate **advanced reading competency** (300-level, 6th semester) **in one foreign language** by successfully completing a second-semester, third-year college language course *or* passing the final exam for said course, with a grade of C or above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate **advanced reading competency** through a **translation exam**, supervised by the Department of Modern Languages and administered by qualified faculty or staff members.\* Evaluator must hold at least a master’s degree (in any discipline) and be full-time employees at an accredited college or university.\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate **intermediate reading competency** (200-level, 4th semester) in **two foreign languages** by successfully completing two second-semester, second-year college language courses *or* passing the final exams for said courses, with a grade of C or above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate **intermediate reading competency** (200-level, 4th semester) in **one foreign language** by successfully completing a second-semester, second-year college language course *or* passing the final exam for said course, with a grade of C or above and **intermediate competency** (equivalent to 9 credits of specialized course work) **in a special research skill** that is pertinent to the dissertation project and informs its methodology. The research skill needs to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, and a written rationale (in form of a letter and signed by the student’s academic advisor) will be required at time of request.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate **advanced competency** (equivalent of 18 credits of specialized course work) **in one special research skill** that is pertinent to the dissertation project and informs its methodology. The research skill needs to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, and a written rationale (in form of a letter and signed by the student’s academic advisor) will be required at time of request.

\*The test will consist of **one language**, involve one extract totaling 700 words, and last 2 ½ hrs; dictionaries will be allowed. Students are required to provide the evaluator and the Department of Modern Languages with three relevant, foreign language articles (one article may be fictional; the others have to be secondary research); an extract from one of these articles will be chosen by the designated evaluator for the timed translation.

\*\*Note that students need to make arrangements for languages not taught/tested at NDSU on their own, and that all non-NDSU evaluators will have to provide the Department of Modern Languages with copies of the exam, their evaluation, and their credentials.

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Chair of Modern Languages Date Certified Director of Graduate Studies Date Approved