

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.

Chair of Modern Languages Date Certified

Director of Graduate Studies

Date Approved