

Language Proficiency Assessments for languages not taught at UM

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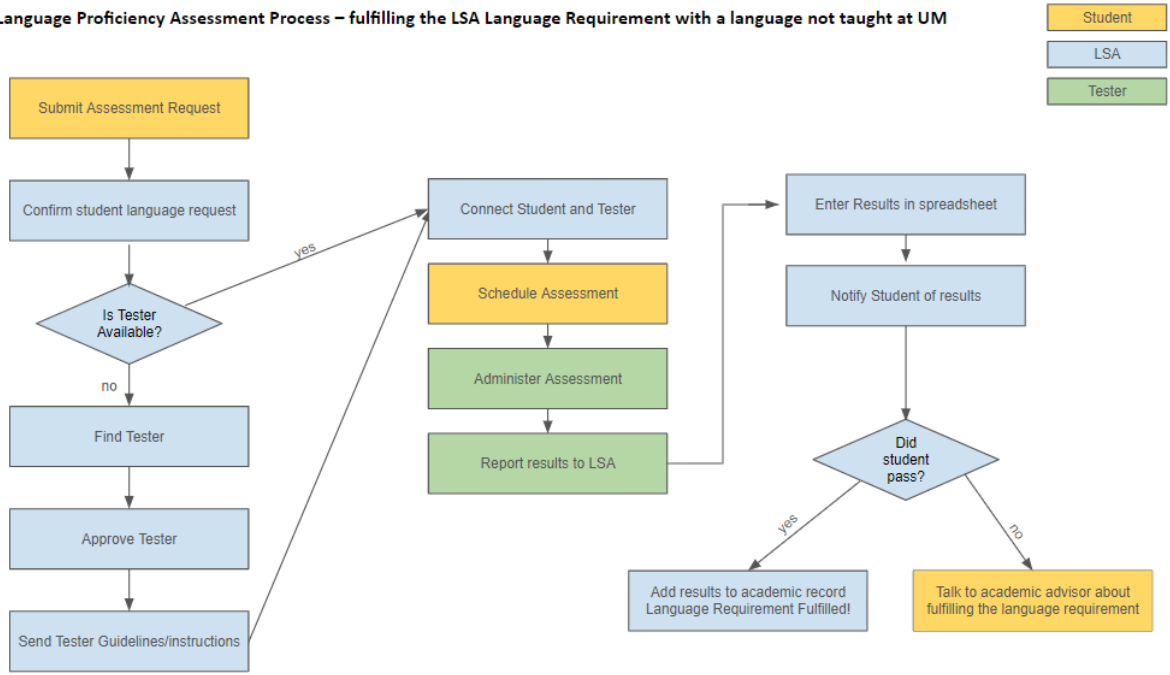
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What is the process? How do I sign up?

[See this website](#) for more information about the process, and a link to sign up to take the proficiency assessment.

Language Proficiency Assessment Process – fulfilling the LSA Language Requirement with a language not taught at UM



What is on the test?

Currently, the test is an oral assessment of your language proficiency. We will pair you with a native/highly proficient speaker of the target language, to have a general conversation. There is no reading/writing component of the test at this time.

Our LSA approved language testers have been given guidelines based on nationally recognized proficiency criteria, against which your performance is evaluated. The tester will ask you a variety of questions to elicit different aspects of the language/grammar. You are allowed to make mistakes. If you do not know a particular vocabulary word, you can use the English word without penalty; as long as the majority of the conversation is in the language in which you are being tested.

The conversations take place via zoom, and are recorded. The recordings are then held on file in LSA for the duration of your academic term at UM. The conversations last anywhere from 20-40 minutes, depending on how much you talk. It is advised that you talk as much as possible, so that we have a good indication of your proficiency.

How do I study for the test?

You cannot study for proficiency. This assessment is to evaluate your language skills as they currently exist. You can prepare for the assessment by speaking your target language as much as possible prior to the test date. This is a good opportunity to connect with parents,

grandparents and friends who speak your language. **Be prepared to speak as much as possible, elaborate on your answers.** If you just answer “yes” “no” or short answers, it is more difficult to assess your proficiency, and that may be detrimental to your performance.

Can I retake the test?

No, this test is to measure your current proficiency level in the language identified.

When can I take this test? What is the deadline to take the test?

You can take the test when our approved tester is available, there is no deadline on our end. However, please keep the following in mind:

- We do not have approved testers for every language, in this case, we need to identify someone who has the necessary language proficiency in your chosen language, and then get them approved as a tester. This process can take many months.
- Testers may not be available at any given time. Most are volunteers, so respecting their time and effort is important. We try to connect you with a tester when you would like to take the test, but this may not always be possible.
- Some languages have a waiting list of students, as we only have a few testers available. Some students have been waiting for months for an available tester, so it is important to schedule the assessment as soon as you can when you are connected to a tester.
- As soon as a tester becomes available, you will be connected with them via email. You should then contact them to schedule the assessment. You may schedule into the future, if they are available and willing to schedule it. Please be advised that sometimes life events happen, and testers may become unavailable. If this happens, you should reach out to Julie Evershed evershed@umich.edu.
- If you do not pass the assessment, you will still need to fulfill the LSA language requirement. Be sure to leave enough time in your schedule to be able to enroll in a language class if this is the case.

How much does it cost?

LSA does its best to try and identify qualified individuals to volunteer their time to conduct the assessment. However, this is not always possible. If a fee is required, you will arrange payment directly with the tester.

Why is the test recorded? Who sees the recording?

The tests are recorded for a couple of reasons: to verify your identity, and to refer back to in case any questions arise on the part of the student, or the tester.

The video files are held in a protected folder, only members of the Language Exception Committee have access.

Can I recommend someone to test me?

Yes! You can send the name and email address of potential testers to evershed@umich.edu. Potential testers fill out a short questionnaire, to give us more information about who they are, and their expertise in the target language. Testers do not need to be language teachers, just highly proficient/native speakers of the language. As all assessments are conducted via Zoom, testers can reside anywhere in the world.

- Testers cannot be related to you
- Testers cannot be other undergraduates, or friends.

Our committee consists of language assessment experts, who have drafted guidelines for conducting the test. They are also available to answer any questions the tester may have. Once approved as a tester, they will be sent the guidelines, and connected to the student.

Each assessment is scheduled at the convenience of BOTH the tester and the student. The assessments are conducted via Zoom and recorded (we can help facilitate this if the tester isn't comfortable with Zoom). Assessments generally last from 20-40 minutes. We strive to find volunteer testers, but if a fee is required, it must be paid by the student.