

CRITERIA FOR COURSES SATISFYING THE ORAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

SCOPE

Competence in oral communication is indicated by an individual demonstrating the ability to clearly transmit ideas and information orally in a way that is appropriate to the topic, purpose, and audience. It also involves demonstrating the ability to discuss ideas clearly with others, to hear and respond to questions, and to assess critical response appropriately. Competence in oral communication cannot be accomplished through a single speaking experience but requires multiple occasions spread out through the course of the term. The specific types of oral skill (for example: debates, speeches, or lectures) may vary from discipline to discipline, though a minimal level of oral competence is required. Courses satisfying the oral communication competency requirement must enable the student to develop the requisite skills through application of theoretical concepts and analytical structures basic to successful oral communication. Thus, instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication must be an intrinsic part of the course, as evidenced in course objectives, course readings, activities, and evaluation.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

While the precise method of instruction and examination is the prerogative of the instructor, approved courses must contain the following elements:

1. The course must contain course readings and/or lectures related to instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication.
2. The student must demonstrate competence in the following:
 - generation of an original oral message which clearly presents ideas and/or information;
 - making effective use of both vocal and physical delivery in the presentation;
 - adapting the presentation to the particular audience; and,
 - being receptive to questions and/or criticism.
3. An audience is defined as 10 or more persons, unless a smaller audience size can be justified for course content. For example, five or six 'clients' may be considered an audience. A teacher and or a teaching assistant do not constitute an appropriate audience.
4. ¹Any of the following three strategies may be chosen for courses that qualify for OCCR credit:
 - 4a. A 1 or more hour course in oral presentations. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:

In order to fulfill FSU's Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must earn a "C-" or better in the course.
 - 4b. A course of 3 or more hours in which a student's oral competency is reported as a separate grade in a no-credit, S/U, OCCR companion course. The oral communication companion course should represent a significant graded portion of the course, e.g. at least 30% of a three hour course or at least 25% of a four-hour course. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:

In order to fulfill FSU's Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student

¹ **In rare cases, programs may require OCCR credits over more than one course.**

must register for the OCCR companion course and earn an "S." The student's performance in the OCCR companion course will be reported as S or U separately from the overall course grade. The OCCR companion course may not be repeated for OCCR credit except for a student who fails the whole course.

Evaluation criteria for the "oral communication" companion course and the resulting impact on the course grade should be apparent to the students in the syllabus. A student who passes the course but fails the OCCR companion course will have to fulfill the university's OCCR requirement through a different course.

- 4c. A 3 or more hour course in which the oral communication component is a significant portion of the final grade. Evaluation criteria for the "oral communication" component of the class and the resulting impact on the course grade should be apparent to the students in the syllabus. The oral communication component should constitute enough of the grade to warrant failing a student who does not pass the oral component, e.g., 30% or more of the final grade. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:
In order to fulfill FSU's Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must earn a "C-" or better in the course, and in order to receive a "C-" or better in the course, the student must earn at least a "C-" on the oral communication competency component of the course. If the student does not earn a "C-" or better on the oral communication competency component of the course, the student will not earn an overall grade of "C-" or better in the course, regardless of how well the student performs in the remaining portion of the course.
5. Grading rubrics are required. Faculty teaching the course agree to submit students' scores on this rubric to the Undergraduate Policy Committee if requested to do so.
6. Faculty and TAs assigned to teach the course must be approved by their department as having the experience and/or training to evaluate oral communication competence. An instructor who has not been formally trained in the Public Speaking area may be deemed competent to teach an OCCR course by their department based on criteria such as evidence of successful college-level teaching, professional public speaking experience, etc.
7. Because speaking experience must focus on generating "an original oral message" courses that emphasize the interpretation or performance of literature do not satisfy this requirement.

Revision and approval by Faculty Senate Steering Committee, February 12, 2015