

ORAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT: REVISED COURSE APPROVAL CRITERIA

New criteria for OCCR courses were approved by the Liberal Studies Coordinating and Policy Committee (LSCPC) in March 2017. After discussing the change in these criteria during Spring of 2017, the UPC approved the policy in their October 2017 meeting. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee (FSSC) then approved the policy October 12, 2017 and confirmed that this change does not require a vote by the Faculty Senate. Below is the final policy in full.

CRITERIA FOR COURSES SATISFYING THE ORAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

SCOPE

In OCCR courses students will develop effective oral communication skills through instruction and ample opportunities for guided practice in speaking. Through these courses students master the kinds of speaking that are appropriate to their academic or professional majors and future leadership roles. Competence in oral communication is indicated by demonstrating the ability to transmit clearly 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 and to respond to questions and critical responses appropriately.

The need for specific oral communication skills (such as formal lecture/presentation, interviewing skills, or group dynamics) will vary from discipline to discipline. While a minimum level of oral competency is required, the means of meeting this competency must remain flexible. Courses will include basic assessments of oral competency and students passing these courses with a grade of "S" (in S/U courses) or "C–" or higher (in letter graded courses) will automatically be assumed to have completed the requirement.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Substantive Course Requirements

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. 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.
3. Competence in oral communication must be demonstrated on multiple occasions spread out through the course of the term.
4. Instructors must provide critique and feedback so that students create oral messages as a process, including guided practice, critique, and revision. Peer feedback is also appropriate in addition to instructor feedback.

Competency and Required Student Learning Objectives

These courses are designed to help students become flexible and proficient oral communicators for professional purposes. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Deliver original oral messages for a specific purpose, occasion, and type of audience.
2. Make effective use of both verbal and non-verbal delivery in presentations.

Grading criteria (e.g., rubrics or other) to assess student competence in oral communication are required. Faculty teaching the course agree to submit students' outcomes on the criteria to the Liberal Studies Coordinating and Policy Committee (LSCPC) if requested to do so. Assessment criteria for the oral communication course and the resulting impact on the course grade should be apparent to the students in the syllabus.

Required Syllabus Statements

The syllabus for an approved OCCR course must include the following language:

1. This course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements for *Oral Communication Competency* and thus is designed to help you become a flexible and proficient oral communicator for professional purposes.
2. *In order to fulfill FSU's Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must earn a "C-" or better in the course (or an "S" in legacy S/U courses approved before 2016).*

Course Types that Can be Approved

1. A one- (or more) hour course in which the oral communication component is a significant portion of the course work and final grade.
2. A one- (or more) credit hour course that has, as a prerequisite, a 0- (or more) or no-credit companion course that provides students with instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication. In the subsequent 1- (or more) credit course, students apply principles of oral communication and are evaluated by an approved instructor to determine whether they meet the requisite oral communication learning objectives. Examples might include undergraduate FIG Instructorships or undergraduate Teaching Assistantships (again, if tied to a course for credit).
3. Oral communication in languages other than English can be approved for the OCCR designation.
4. The speaking experience in an OCCR course must focus on generating "an original oral message". Thus, courses that emphasize the interpretation or performance of literature do not satisfy this requirement.

Exceptions

1. Allow appropriate offices on campus to provide students with accommodations or exemptions on a case-by-case basis for each student.
2. As with all other University-wide requirements, deans can grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis.