***Virginia Department of Education***

***Department of Teacher Education and Licensure***

***PO Box 2120***

***Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120***

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| **Foreign Language Endorsement Requirements for Individuals who Learned a Foreign Language without Formal Academic College or University Credit** |

The excerpt from the [*Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/) set forth **endorsement** requirements for candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit in a regionally accredited college or university. The regulations state in part:

[8VAC20-23-360. Foreign Language Prek-12.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section360/)

4. Candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit in a regionally accredited college or university shall complete the following requirements:

a. Achieve a qualifying score on a foreign language assessment in the appropriate language as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education; and

b. Earn a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or obtain teacher certification in another country with at least 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels at a foreign institution.

Please note that all conditions for licensure set forth in the Board of Education regulations and the *Code of Virginia* must be met. All endorsement and professional studies requirements for licensure in Virginia can be found in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* at: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/>.

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| **Testing Requirements for Individuals who have Learned a Foreign Language without Formal Academic Credit in a Regionally Accredited College or University** |

For details regarding the assessments prescribed by the Board of Education, refer to the Professional Teacher’s Assessment Requirements document on the following website: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/teacher-licensure/licensing-forms-information>.

1. **The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)** - The VCLA is required for individuals seeking an initial Virginia license. For more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration, refer to the [VCLA website](http://www.va.nesinc.com/), or contact Evaluation Systems Pearson at (866) 613-3292.
2. **Praxis Subject Area Assessment** - Individuals are required to satisfy the Praxis Subject Area assessment requirement for only one endorsement area. If an individual is seeking an endorsement in French, Spanish or German the Praxis is recommended. Individuals who take ACTFL Oral and Writing Proficiency Assessments must still satisfy the Praxis Subject Area assessment requirement in the endorsement area in which the initial licensure is granted. For information regarding the Praxis assessments, please refer to the  [Educational Testing Service (ETS) website](https://www.ets.org/), or contact the ETS at 1-800-772-9476.
3. **The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Oral and Writing Proficiency Assessments -** ACTFL Oral and Writing Proficiency Assessments may be taken to meet endorsement requirements, or if the Board of Education has NOT prescribed a Praxis Subject Area Assessment. The Board of Education has approved the use of ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview **and** the Writing Proficiency Test to allow native speakers or candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit in a college or university to meet the foreign language endorsement requirements by demonstrating proficiency on both the oral and written assessments.

 **The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)** takes the form of a carefully structured conversation between a trained and certified interviewer and the person whose speaking proficiency is being assessed. The interview lasts from ten to thirty minutes.

 **The ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)** is a standardized procedure for the global assessment of functional writing ability. The test requires the examinee to read prompts in English and compose written responses in the target language without the aid of dictionaries or grammar references.

**The Board of Education approved the proficiency level of “advanced low” for the ACTFL assessments.** An individual may register for the [ACTFL assessments online](https://www.actfl.org/assessments/postsecondary-assessments).If you have any questions, you may contact Language Testing International at 1-800-486-8444.

 Individuals may apply for an initial Virginia license by passing the ACTFL assessments **and** completing 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States, or obtaining a teacher certification in another country and completing at least 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels at a foreign institution.

 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Individuals who take ACTFL Oral and Writing Proficiency Assessmentsmust still satisfy the Praxis Subject Area assessment requirement for the endorsement area in which the initial license is granted if the Board of Education has a prescribed Praxis subject area assessment. For a list of assessments prescribed by the Board of Education refer to the Professional Teacher’s Assessment Requirements document on the following website: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/teacher-licensure/licensing-forms-information>.

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| **Individuals Applying for an Initial Virginia Teaching License who have Learned a Foreign Language without Formal Academic Credit in a Regionally Accredited College or University** |

If you are currently employed by a Virginia school division, or accredited nonpublic school, your credentials must be submitted on your behalf by the employing educational agency. Please contact your Human Resources Office to inquire who the licensure contact is in your school division or nonpublic accredited school.

If you are not employed by a Virginia public school division, or nonpublic accredited school, and learned a foreign language without formal academic college or university credit, you may apply for an initial Virginia teaching license by following the steps outlined in the Application for a Virginia License, which can be accessed on the Teacher Licensure webpage at

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure>.