

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

Department of Foreign Languages Senior Capstone Assessment Project

Directions for students Fall 2007

Now that you are in your senior year, as part of your FL 401 capstone course, it is time for you to show how much you have achieved through your degree in Foreign Languages at UE. For this purpose, we invite you to complete the following exercises:

- Online survey
- Interview with your advisor
- Written comprehension test
- Portfolio
 - Original essay
 - Three significant research papers
 - Presentation
 - Q+A session
 - Question-generating exercise

	Purpose	Language	When	Where
Online survey	Self evaluation	English	Anytime during the semester	Home
Interview	Self evaluation	English	Arrange appointment with advisor	Advisor's office
Reading comprehension test	Test proficiency in Spanish	Spanish	Arrange appointment with Dr. Mohn	Dr. Mohn's Office
Portfolio	Test proficiency in Spanish	Spanish	Arrange appointment with advisor	TBD

1. At any point in the semester, complete the anonymous online survey to self-evaluate your abilities in the target language. Directions to access the survey online:
 - a. Log on to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nShHHI6hIhZoLWLbOGglWQ_3d_3d
 - b. Follow the instructions and complete the survey before Reading and Study Day.
 - c. Only the students involved in this assessment project are allowed to access this survey. Because we are collecting no identifying information, it will be impossible to tell which responses are yours versus someone else's (e.g., if another student goes in and completes the survey).
2. In addition, at any point in the semester, you must complete the reading comprehension section of the DIALANG test. Contact Dr. Mohn to schedule an appointment to complete the test.
3. Arrange with your committee supervisor (your advisor) a time during the semester to meet and talk in English about your learning experience at UEDFL. This conversation may be recorded.

4. In consultation with your committee, arrange a time during the semester to meet and proceed with your portfolio evaluation. At least a week before the arranged meeting time, you are expected to turn in the following documentation:

- a. Essay:

In a thoughtful, well-organized essay in the target language, analyze the changes you have experienced in the last four to five years. What were your expectations of yourself and the university community when you entered as a freshman, and how have those expectations changed? How have you changed, both as a person and as student of a second language and culture? What impact has your education at the University of Evansville had on your life to this point, and how will what you have learned here continue to affect you in the future. Please share both positive and negative examples of specific instances from all areas of your campus life (classroom, instructor, student life etc.) and study abroad that have helped shape you as a human being.

In the second section of your essay, please comment on the material you have chosen for inclusion in your portfolio. How does the material included in the portfolio represent both you and your learning experience at the University of Evansville?

In your essay conclusion, please share your plans for the future. What do you see yourself doing with the education you have received at the University of Evansville?

The essay must be written in the target language and must adhere to MLA style in terms of presentation and citation. It must be a double-spaced, computer-generated document, eight pages in length, written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. We are interested in your own experiences. You may get no editorial help.

- b. Portfolio

Three papers reflecting your best work in and on the target language must be turned in. One paper must deal with literature, one with linguistics and one with cultural issues. You may get no editorial help excluding the corrections the professors may have given you in class.

5. At the time arranged for the portfolio section of this assessment project, you must complete the following oral proficiency tasks:

- a. Presentation

In a well-designed and efficiently delivered oral presentation in the target language not to exceed 15 minutes in length, please summarize the contents of your written essay for the faculty panel. You may use as much or as little technology as you wish, from a PowerPoint presentation to 3 x 5 note cards, according to your personal style. Keep in mind, however, that your presentation may not be read. It should be delivered in a comfortable, yet professional manner.

- b. Q+A session

After your presentation, expect to answer a few questions about it in the target language.

- c. Question-formation

To allow to demonstrate your question-formation skills, after your 15-minute presentation and the Q+A session, you will be asked to generate a number of questions based on a given topic or situation. For example: you have been assigned to investigate and report on Spanish attitudes toward the recent US press frenzy over

Paris Hilton, Britney Spears and Nicole Ritchie. What questions would you ask? Is the United States press too shallow? What interest do Spaniards have in American teen idols? Do Spaniards care about the issues involving the rich and famous?

Because you will be evaluated on your extemporaneous responses, there is no way you could prepare for this section of the interview. Rely on your knowledge and your experience.

You will receive an official letter with the results of your evaluation and comments from your professors.

Checklist:

Online survey	Have you completed the online survey?			
Interview	Have you arranged an appointment with your advisor?	Have you completed the interview?		
Reading comprehension test	Have you arranged an appointment with Dr. Mohn?	Have you completed the test?		
Portfolio	Have you arranged an appointment with your advisor?	Have you written your original essay? Does it follow the guidelines above?	Are your three portfolio papers in the target language?	Have you prepared your presentation in the target language according to the guidelines above?