

# UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

## Department of Foreign Languages Senior Capstone Assessment Project

### Directions for examiners Fall 2007

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

- Online survey
- Interview
- 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	Target language	Arrange appointment with Dr. Mohn	Dr. Mohn's Office
Portfolio	Test proficiency in Spanish	Target language	Arrange appointment with advisor	TBD

**You may need to make several copies of this document, depending on the number of committees you are a member of.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **A. Exercises students complete on their own:**

### **1. Online survey**

To be completed by the student at any point in the semester. Interpretation to be done in the future.

### **2. Reading comprehension exercise**

To be completed by the student at any point in the semester. Interpretation to be done in the future.

This time only, students complete the DIALANG test in Chris' office.

## **B. Exercises requiring faculty assistance**

### **1. Interview**

This assessment method is **not** to test their performance in the target language. It is designed to elicit the students' opinions about their own abilities in the target language.

The student must contact you to set an appointment.

#### **Directions for the interviewers**

Explain to the student why this exercise (include paragraph above)

Record the entire interview (use the departmental audio recorder).

All questions covered but other questions (follow up...) may be introduced to avoid being mechanical (extra questions not taken into account for evaluation purposes).

Interviewer asks and checks answers. Other person only checks answers.

Check the answer that is closer to the students' answers. In cases where the answer is too far from the choices, write it down.

After interview, compare answers and reach an agreement.

#### **Interview questions**

1. Imagine that you accept an irresistible one-year job offer in Spain...

How well do you think you could survive in Spain for a year surrounded by native speakers of Spanish? In other words, how well would you be able to negotiate with the owner of the apartment you are interested in renting? (1)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

2. And with your future boss? (1)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

3. How well would you be able to understand the contract to your new apartment? (2)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would need the help of a dictionary or a Spanish roommate but I would know what it says eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to be able to sign it confidently
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

4. How well would you be able to write a cover letter in Spanish for your future boss? (3)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would need the help of a dictionary or a Spanish roommate but I would do it eventually
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would know enough to be able to write it confidently
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not be able to write it

5. How well would you be able to understand your Spanish co-workers? (4)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

6. Talking to your new Spanish friends in a bar over *tapas*, how well do you think you could communicate with them both verbally and non-verbally? (5)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

7. In the same *tapas* bar, your Spanish friends start arguing about the latest political news, how well would you be able to understand and contribute to the discussion? (6)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

8. And about the latest *Big Brother* scandal on TV? (6)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not understand everything but I am sure I would get the general idea
- I would have a lot of problems, I don't know if I would understand enough to get by
- I would have a lot of problems, I would not understand it

9. One of your co-workers speaks a dialect you never heard before, how well would you be able to figure out where this person is from using your knowledge of Spanish dialects? (7)

- I would not have any problems at all
- I would not have many problems
- I would have some problems but I could try to figure it out
- I would not understand enough to try to figure it out
- I would not even know that person is speaking differently

10. Imagine that you are offered another job teaching an introductory Spanish grammar class to Americans studying abroad in Spain, how confident would you be in attempting to teach that class? (8)

- I would be very confident
- I would be somewhat confident
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not know enough to undertake this task
- I would not even know what these are (select the appropriate choice(s)): syntax, morphology, phonology
- I would be confident in teaching only (select the appropriate choice(s)): syntax, morphology, phonology

11. Imagine that you are offered another job teaching an introductory Spanish literature class to Americans studying abroad in Spain, how confident would you be in attempting to teach that class? (9)

- I would be very confident
- I would be somewhat confident
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not know enough to undertake this task

12. In your new job teaching Spanish grammar and literature, how well would you be able to understand and contribute to a discussion with your co-workers about the history of Spanish literature, art and philosophy? (10)

- I would not have any problems
- I would be somewhat confident
- I would have some problems at the beginning but I would get used to it eventually
- I would not know enough
- I would not even know what these are (select the appropriate choice(s)): history of Spanish literature, art, philosophy
- I would be confident in understanding and contributing only (select the appropriate choice(s)): history of Spanish literature, art, philosophy

**Comments:**



## **2. Portfolio**

### **a. Portfolio evaluation: Portfolio essays**

Directions for students:

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.

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.

### **Directions for the examiners**

The student must contact you to set an appointment.

Generally comment on the students' writing abilities as well as their knowledge of the three topics (linguistics, literature and cultural issues)

### **Comments**



**b. Portfolio evaluation: Essay presentation**

Directions for students:

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 only 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.

**Directions for the examiners**

Comment on the students' oral performance  
After session, examiners agree on comments

**Comments:**

### **c. Portfolio evaluation: Q+A session**

#### **Directions for the interviewers**

Ask the questions below in the target language. Generally comment on the students' performance  
Other questions may be asked (follow up...) but answers to those not included in comments  
After session, examiners agree on comments

#### **Q+A session**

##### 9 questions on the essay

1. What made you decide to come to UE?
2. How much did you know about UE?
3. How did you feel when you were about to begin your freshman year? Were you excited, nervous...?
4. Was it hard for you to adjust during your freshman year? Why?
5. What was the most important challenge for you in adjusting to college life?
6. What did you think of classes, instructors, classmates... your first semester?
7. What's the one thing you'll always remember about UE?
8. What's the one thing you can't wait to forget about UE?
9. How would you summarize your UE experience to an incoming freshman?

##### 6 questions on the three papers

1. To what extent has the study of linguistics contributed to your understanding of the Spanish language?
2. Are there any linguistic areas you wish you had studied more in depth? Why?
3. How do you think your literature classes helped you in understanding more the Spanish language and culture?
4. What book or author did you enjoy the most? Why?
5. Do you think learning culture has been an important aspect in your foreign language education? Why?
6. What aspect of Hispanic culture interested you most? Why?

#### **Comments:**



**d. Portfolio evaluation: Question-generation**

After your 15-minute presentation, to allow to demonstrate your question-formation skills, you will be asked to generate a number of questions based on a given topic or situation.

**Directions for the examiners**

Come up with a topic, different for each student, listen to the questions and generally comment on the students' performance

**Topic**

**TBD**

**Comments:**