Native/Heritage Proficiency Exemption From the GVPT Foreign Language Requirement

If a student’s spoken language (other than English) is not a language evaluated through placement exams at UMD, students can register with the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to have their proficiency level evaluated. Students will need to register for and complete an official telephone interview with a representative from the ACTFL. Students’ proficiency must be evaluated as Advanced-Mid, Advanced-High or Superior in order to demonstrate native proficiency and exempt from the GVPT Foreign Language requirements. These ratings are sufficient to exempt students from the Elementary Foreign Language requirement as well as the Additional Skills/Intermediate Foreign Language requirement. Placement below Advanced-Mid will not be accepted. Please note that this option is to verify native proficiency, and students pursuing it should be aware of the rigors of this examination. There is a fee for this examination, and no credits are granted.

Procedure:

- Students should create an account at [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com). Once the account is set up, students should select the test application listed under University, School or Academic Program listed as University of Maryland - Government and Politics in order to sign up for the exam. **The correct application must be selected when signing up in order to ensure the correct test is completed and that test results will be made available to GVPT.**

- ACTFL will communicate with students by e-mail to give them the particulars on the test date, etc., including passwords and other security measures.

- The test consists of a phone conversation (approximately 30 minutes) with a certified speaker of the particular language.

- Results should be available to GVPT Advising in about 10 business days. These results will indicate whether or not the student passed the interview.

- GVPT Advising will contact students to let them know their test results.

- Students who do not receive a passing score will need to satisfy the GVPT foreign language requirement(s) by taking the appropriate course(s) in consultation with an GVPT advisor.

- The current price of the test is $109.00. It is strongly recommended that students take this examination well before their anticipated graduation date to ensure they have time to satisfy the foreign language requirements if their evaluation is not sufficient to for an exemption.

- Please remember that students are subject to the University of Maryland Honor Pledge which prohibits students from receiving any unauthorized assistance with this interview.
Ordering the Test: Visual Guide

1. At [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com), click the link in the top right corner “Search for your institution or school program”

2. Select “No” for Teacher Certification:
3. Enter Institution Name: “University of Maryland - Department of Government and Politics”

4. Select Language, hit “Continue”

5. Select the test (there’s only one option – OPI)
6. Select “Unproctored”

7. Continue by choosing available dates/times that work for you, and filling out the required contact/billing information, then hit “Submit”.

What is a Proctor?

You will need someone to supervise/proctor your test. You may choose to go to a testing site approved by your institution, or if you use you own, please check with your proctor for testing availability prior to completing your application. Or proctoring to take tests from your own home, using a PC with a webcam and microphone.

- University of Maryland - Department of Government & Politics [view contact and pricing information]
- UnProctored [view contact and pricing information]