A&S CHECKLIST for EVALUATING LANGUAGE FLUENCY of HERITAGE SPEAKERS

Heritage speakers are those who learned the language at home but received little or no formal instruction in that language.

Language fluency encompasses four areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing, ranging in that order from the simplest to the most complex linguistic tasks.

Evaluation of language fluency may be accomplished in several different ways, but in order to reduce the amount of time necessary to assess the skills of an individual speaker, the following checklist should allow a fair examination in about 20 minutes.

Listening (10 minutes)
In a ten-minute conversation conducted exclusively in the target language on a general topic, the speaker was able to understand:

_______everything
_______most of the conversation
_______about half after repetitions in a simpler vocabulary

Speaking
In the same ten-minute conversation, the speaker was able to communicate

_______on a fairly sophisticated level with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
_______on a standard level well within the expectations of ordinary conversation
_______poorly with awkward grammar and a simple vocabulary

Reading (5 minutes)
The student provided a non-fiction text (newspaper or magazine) in the target language. The Evaluator selected a short passage and the reader was able, after five minutes of silently reading, to explain in the target language

_______an idea from the text in considerable detail
_______a clear understanding of the topic
_______a vague idea of the topic
_______no comprehension of the text

Writing (5 minutes)
In a five-minute essay written on the spot in the target language on a general topic, the writer was able to express

_______fairly sophisticated ideas with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
_______a general concept with ordinary grammar and a general vocabulary
_______a simple idea with basic grammar and a simple vocabulary
_______no ability to write in the target language

Please attach the essay to this form for submission.

What language is being tested: ____________________________________________________________

Student____________________________________________M number_____________________________

Evaluator____________________________________________E-mail________________________________

(Signature, name and title)

The Evaluator will mail this form to the Director of Language Instruction, Kathryn Lorenz, Dept of Romance Languages and Literatures (ML 0377) which will make a recommendation to the College of Arts & Sciences regarding waiver of the A&S language requirement.