**Oral Communication Competency at Florida State University**

<http://liberalstudies.fsu.edu/LiberalStudies_OCCR.html>

# Oral Communication Competency “Clear, Creative, and Convincing Oral Communicators”

Competence in oral communication is shown through one's ability to clearly transmit ideas and information orally in a way that is appropriate to the topic, purpose, and audience. A competent communicator must also discuss ideas clearly with others, hear and respond to questions, and assess critical response appropriately. This competency cannot be accomplished through a single speaking experience but requires multiple practice opportunities throughout a course. Courses satisfying the oral communication competency requirement enable the student to develop the requisite skills through application of theoretical concepts and analytical structures basic to successful oral communication. Thus, instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication are an intrinsic part of the course, as evidenced in course objectives, course readings, activities, and evaluation.

**For current oral communication competency guidelines** [Click Here](http://liberalstudies.fsu.edu/documents/OCCR_Criteria.pdf)

### Requirements

Students must complete the Oral Communication Competency Requirement (OCCR) with the grade of “C-” or higher. This may take the form of three main approaches:

1. A 1-or-more-hour course in oral presentations.
2. A course of 3-or-more hours in which a student's oral competency is reported as a separate grade in a no-credit, S/U, OCCR companion course. A student who passes the course but fails the OCCR companion course will have to fulfill the university’s OCCR requirement through a different course.
3. A course of 3-or-more hours in which the oral communication component is a significant portion of the final grade. The oral communication component constitutes enough of the grade to warrant failing a student who does not pass the oral component.

In rare cases, programs may require OCCR credits over more than one course.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will become: clear, creative, and convincing oral communicators. Courses enable students to meet the following competency—(1) Formulate a clear, original, oral message.

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Generate, develop, organize, and convey original ideas orally, using language, presentation skills, and/or other media (for example, digital texts, images, and graphs) to present those ideas clearly, confidently, and in a manner appropriate to different audiences and specific communication situations.

**Appendix : Florida State University Oral Communication Competency Courses, August 2016**

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| AFRXXXX | Air Force ROTC (three courses) |   |  |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| BSC 3402L | Experimental Biology Lab  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| BSC 4945 | Undergrad Superv Teaching (1) |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CGN 4800  | Pre-Senior Design & Professional Issues (2), [**and** CGN 4802] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CGN 4802  | Senior Design Project. (3) **[and** CGN 4800] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CHI 3XXX | Chinese Communication  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CHM 1020C | Chemistry for Liberal Studies  | NS Core |   |   |   |   | OCCR | COMP |
| CIS 4250 | Ethics and Computer Science  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CJL 4565 | Courts and Social Policy  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| CLA 2110 | Debates About Past: Greek Civilization/History/Culture  | HIS |   |   | SIP |   | OCCR |   |
| CLA 2123 | Debates About Past: Roman Civilization/History/Culture  | HIS |   |   | SIP |   | OCCR |   |
| COM 2080 | Online Communication and Presence  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| COM 3310 | Communication for Business  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| ECH 2050  | Chemical Engineering Communication (2) |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| EDG 4410 | Classroom Management & Professional Issues  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| EEL 4911C | Senior Design Project  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| EIN 3010 | Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering Tools  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| EML 4551C  | Senior Design Project I (3) [**and** EML 4552C] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| EML 4552C  | Senior Design Project II (3) [**and** EML 4551C] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| ENL 4336 | Orality and Poetics: Shakespeare's Sonnets  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| FIL2090r | Professional Communication |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| FRE 4410 | Advanced Conversation  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| GEB 3213  | Business Communication  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| GER 3400 | Composition and Conversation  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| HIS 4065 | Public History and Methods  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| IFS 2021 | Com. and Social Responsibility | ETH |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| IFS 2030 | The Digital Age | HUM |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| IFS 2078 | Communication Matters: Personal Responsibility in Public Speaking | ETH |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| ITA 4410 | Advanced Italian Conversation  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| JPN 3250 | Practical Skills in Japanese Communication  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MET 3940 | Weathercasting |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MSL 4301 | Leadership and Management  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MUE 3491 | Communication Skills for the Musician: Choral (2) [**and** MUE 3495] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MUE 3493 | Communication Skills for the Musician: Instrumental (2) [**and** MUE 3496] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MUE 3495  | Music Education Laboratory (1) [**and** MUE 3491] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MUE 3496  | Music Education Laboratory (1) [**and** MUE 3493] |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| MUY 4402 | Music Therapy: Methods and Practicum  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| NSP 4546 | Substance Abuse: Effects on Health, Family, Profession  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| NUR 3076 | Communication in Health Care  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| PHY 3091 | Communication in Physics  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| REL 4044 | What is Religion?  |   |   |   | SIP |   | OCCR |   |
| SMT 4664 | Project-Based Instruction  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| SOW 3350 | Interviewing & Documentation (3) |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| SPC 1017 | Fundamantals of Speech  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| SPC 2067 | Communication for Arts and Design |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| SPC 2608  | Public Speaking  |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| SPC 4620 | Strategic Speech |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |
| THE 2020 | Introduction to Theatre for Majors |   |   |   |   |   | OCCR |   |

**CRITERIA FOR COURSES SATISFYING THE ORAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT**

<http://liberalstudies.fsu.edu/documents/OCCR_Criteria.pdf>

SCOPE

Competence in oral communication is indicated by an individual demonstrating the ability to clearly transmit ideas and information orally in a way that is appropriate to the topic, purpose, and audience. It also involves demonstrating the ability to discuss ideas clearly with others, to hear and respond to questions, and to assess critical response appropriately. Competence in oral communication cannot be accomplished through a single speaking experience but requires multiple occasions spread out through the course of the term. The specific types of oral skill (for example: debates, speeches, or lectures) may vary from discipline to discipline, though a minimal level of oral competence is required. Courses satisfying the oral communication competency requirement must enable the student to develop the requisite skills through application of theoretical concepts and analytical structures basic to successful oral communication. Thus, instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication must be an intrinsic part of the course, as evidenced in course objectives, course readings, activities, and evaluation.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

While the precise method of instruction and examination is the prerogative of the instructor, approved courses must contain the following elements:

The course must contain course readings and/or lectures related to instruction in the theory and practice of oral communication.

The student must demonstrate competence in the following:

generation of an original oral message which clearly presents ideas and/or information;

making effective use of both vocal and physical delivery in the presentation;

adapting the presentation to the particular audience; and,

being receptive to questions and/or criticism.

An audience is defined as 10 or more persons, unless a smaller audience size can be justified for course content. For example, five or six ‘clients’ may be considered an audience. A teacher and or a teaching assistant do not constitute an appropriate audience.

1Any of the following three strategies may be chosen for courses that qualify for OCCR credit:

4a. A 1 or more hour course in oral presentations. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:

In order to fulfill FSU’s Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must earn a “C-” or better in the course.

4b. A course of 3 or more hours in which a student’s oral competency is reported as a separate grade in a no-credit, S/U, OCCR companion course. The oral communication companion course should represent a significant graded portion of the course, e.g. at least 30% of a three hour course or at least 25% of a four-hour course. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:

In order to fulfill FSU’s Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must register for the OCCR companion course and earn an “S.” The student’s performance in the OCCR companion course will be reported as S or U separately from the overall course grade. The OCCR companion course may not be repeated for OCCR credit except for a student who fails the whole course.

Evaluation criteria for the “oral communication” companion course and the resulting impact on the course grade should be apparent to the students in the syllabus. A student who passes the course but fails the OCCR companion course will have to fulfill the university’s OCCR requirement through a different course.

4c. A 3 or more hour course in which the oral communication component is a significant portion of the final grade. Evaluation criteria for the “oral communication” component of the class and the resulting impact on the course grade should be apparent to the students in the syllabus. The oral communication component should constitute enough of the grade to warrant failing a student who does not pass the oral component, e.g., 30% or more of the final grade. The course syllabus must contain the following statement:

In order to fulfill FSU’s Oral Communication Competency Requirement, the student must earn a “C-” or better in the course, and in order to receive a “C-” or better in the course, the student must earn at least a “C-” on the oral communication competency component of the course. If the student does not earn a “C-” or better on the oral communication competency component of the course, the student will not earn an overall grade of “C-” or better in the course, regardless of how well the student performs in the remaining portion of the course.

Grading rubrics are required. Faculty teaching the course agree to submit students’ scores on this rubric to the Undergraduate Policy Committee if requested to do so.

Faculty and TAs assigned to teach the course must be approved by their department as having the experience and/or training to evaluate oral communication competence. An instructor who has not been formally trained in the Public Speaking area may be deemed competent to teach an OCCR course by their department based on criteria such as evidence of successful college-level teaching, professional public speaking experience, etc.

Because speaking experience must focus on generating “an original oral message” courses that emphasize the interpretation or performance of literature do not satisfy this requirement.

Revision and approval by Faculty Senate Steering Committee, February 12, 2015

1 In rare cases, programs may require OCCR credits over more than one course.