

Dept. of Communication

Oral Competency Examination Instructions – Part 2

Summer 2012

If you pass Part 1 of the oral competency exam (earning a score of 70% or higher on the multiple choice exam), you may move on to Part 2 of the exam. You may take Part 2 **ONLY** if you pass Part 1.

You must complete and pass Part 1 and Part 2 **within the same academic year** (e.g., Fall 2011, Winter 2012, and Spring/Summer 2012) in order to achieve oral competency equivalency. An “**academic year**” begins with the Fall semester and ends with the Spring/Summer semesters. Therefore, in order to qualify to take Part II in February 2012, you must have passed Part I during the Winter 2012 semester (January). Both parts of the exam take place during the semester in which the results are recorded. **While you may attempt to pass Part 1 several times, you may participate in Part 2 only once.** The pass rate from Fall 2006 to July 2011 is 68%. However, because we rate each speaker on an individual basis, it is possible for there to be a 0% pass rate or a 100% pass rate for any given semester.

Part 2 of the oral competency exam will take place on

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., MANO 225

The date and time of this exam are not flexible! If you are taking Part 2 you **MUST** arrange to be available at 10:00 a.m. Being tardy to the exam will reflect in your evaluation. You should plan on being there for about 2-2 ½ hours. You will present your speech and serve as an audience member for other speakers.

No exceptions to this date and time will be given, regardless of weather circumstances, personal circumstances, graduation status, etc. Also note the policy as outlined in the university bulletin: “Competency Requirements, with the exception of the Writing-Intensive Course in Major (WI) and the Level II Computer Proficiency (CP), should be met early in a baccalaureate degree program” (<http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/GenEd/gened-index.html>). Even those in their last semester, and/or those who have only the OC requirement to fulfill, may not pass and still be required to fulfill the OC requirement in another way.

The following conditions pertain to this portion of the examination:

- I. Students permitted to take this portion of the examination must remit **\$20.00** in a check or money order, and a registration form (access from the OCCE home page, <http://www.comm.wayne.edu/oce.php>). The **registration form must be legible**. Your check or money order for \$20.00 should be made payable to Wayne State University. **DO NOT USE CASH!** You may hand-deliver your registration form and fee, or send it in the mail. If you hand-deliver, the check or money order must be delivered in person to 585 Manoogian **no later than Friday, July 20, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** If you send via mail, your registration form and fee must be postmarked by **Monday, July 16, 2012**. The address is: Katie Rasmussen, Dept. of Communication,

Wayne State University, 906 W. Warren, 585 Manoogian Hall, Detroit, MI 48201. Failure to pay the \$20.00 on time will result in your exclusion from the examination.

- II. You are to present a 5-7 minute informative speech.
- A. You should construct an informative speech specifically addressing a communication-themed issue.
1. You should consult the COM 1010 textbook, ***Communication: A Critical/Cultural Introduction***, to help you in understanding an array of communication themes and issues.
 2. You should consult the *COM 1010 Course Supplement: Items to Aid in Student Success* to help you in developing your informative speech.
 3. You are expected to demonstrate a high level of competency on key criteria befitting a university-level speech performance.
 4. The speech should exhibit all the traits of a well-informed and engaging message.
- B. The speech should include the effective use of appropriate presentation aids (visual and/or audio—a “technological” aid is not required).
1. If you utilize PowerPoint or another form of computer-generated presentation, you must bring it on a CD-Rom and/or a USB drive suitable for a PC.
 2. You should have a backup for your presentation aid, as technology is often unreliable.
 3. ***There is no guarantee that the room will have internet access***, so we suggest that you do not rely on the internet for your presentation aid.
 4. You should mark on your registration form the types of technological support you need, if any. You are responsible for providing anything not on that list. To repeat: Internet access is not guaranteed; therefore, you are discouraged from relying on the internet for your presentation aid.
 5. If you do not bring a presentation aid, you will not be allowed to attempt Part II.
- C. In your speech, you should use at least 5 sources of at least 3 different types.
1. The textbook (*Communication: A Critical/Cultural Introduction*) should count as one source.
 2. Other acceptable sources include
 - a. Peer-reviewed journal article
 - b. Newspaper articles (on-line newspapers are OK)
 - c. Magazine articles
 - d. Books/e-books
 - e. Credible websites
 - f. Credible web articles
 3. Your sources should be correctly cited according to either APA or MLA style.
 - a. You should correctly cite your sources orally within your speech.
 - b. You should correctly cite your sources in written form on your full-sentence outline (see section III.B below).

- B. This is used for reference only, and no one but the evaluation panel will see it.
 - C. You do not need to bring anything in preparation for recording.
- VI. Your audience will consist of other student speakers and at least 2 instructors from the Department of Communication.
- VII. You are expected to adhere to proper audience etiquette when listening to the other speakers.
- A. Turn your mobile phone to “off” (not to “vibrate” or “silent”). Phones that ring or vibrate will negatively affect the evaluation of the speaker who owns the phone.
 - B. Absolutely no texting during the administration of the exam. Do not leave the room to answer phone calls or texts, or to make phone calls or texts.
 - C. Do not arrive late or leave early to give your speech. Be respectful of the time others are taking to listen to you, and stay for the entire time to listen to them.
- VIII. Students who meet the effectiveness criteria on the oral presentation and supporting materials will be awarded oral competency status.
- A. You will be notified via the WSU access ID email address you provide on your registration form.
 - B. The Department of Communication is not responsible for email addresses that are non-working, for inboxes that are full and will not allow any emails to go through, for returned emails, for emails that are sent to junk/bulk mail folders, etc.
 - C. If you have not received email notification of your results within two calendar days, this indicates something may be wrong with the email transmission of the results. In that case, please email **Katie Rasmussen** at **dx1649@wayne.edu** immediately.
- IX. The decision of the evaluation committee is final.
- X. If you do not show up for Part II of the OCCE, you will not be allowed to retake the exam. If you do not bring your written materials, you will not be allowed to speak or retake the exam. If you do not bring your presentation aid, you will not be allowed to speak or retake the exam. You will have to retake Part II during the next round of administration, if the next round falls within the same academic year in which you passed Part I. If it does not fall within the same academic year, you will have to pass both parts during the next round of exam administration.

If I can be of further assistance or if you have special needs for the presentation, please contact **Katie Rasmussen (Interim Basic Course Director)** at **dx1649@wayne.edu**. We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday, July 25, 10:00 AM, MANO 225**.

Please note: If you major (or will major) in Communication, you will have to take COM 1010 regardless of whether or not you pass both parts of the OCCE.

ORAL COMPETENCY EXAM - PART 2

ORAL COMPETENCY SPEAKING EXAMINATION SPEAKER STATEMENT FORM

Summer 2012

You need to provide 3 typed copies of your answers to the questions below for this speaker statement on the day you present your 5-7 minute informative speech on a communication-themed concept or issue. Also, remember to bring 3 copies of your outline, including references. Please do not bring your printed materials in any kind of folder. Please simply **staple** them in three sets.

This part should be completed in full-sentence, essay form. You can answer each item individually, but your answers should be full-sentences.

Speaker Statement

Please thoroughly address each of the following questions in your speaker statement. Use evidence to support your claims.

1. What is the purpose of your speech?
2. What is the central idea (thesis) of your speech?
3. How have you considered the audience for this speech? What steps have you taken to adapt to this audience? (The audience will consist of at least 2 instructors from the Department of Communication as well as other students participating in Part 2.)
4. What kinds of supporting material have you selected? Why did you select these materials?
5. Which type(s) of presentational aid(s) have you selected? Why is this appropriate?
6. What makes this an informative speech on a communication-themed concept or issue?
8. What considerations did you make concerning the delivery of the speech?
9. What is the most important element in your preparation of your speech? Explain.
10. How did you practice for your speech today?