

# Oral Communication Competency Exam

## General Testing Information

### Fulfilling the Oral Communication Requirement:

Successfully passing both sections of this examination will provide you with oral competency equivalency. The examination occurs in two parts. Both parts must be completed and passed **within the same academic year** (e.g., Fall 2018, and Winter 2019) in order to achieve oral competency equivalency. The Oral Communication Competency Exam (OCCE) is only offered during the Fall and Winter semesters, and occurs once per semester.

*Oral Communication (OC) Requirement:* [General Education Requirements](#)

*Educated persons should be comfortable in situations which require them to make oral presentations, be able to convince others of a point of view, or make appropriate remarks in an informal setting. Along with an ability to write cogently, communicating orally is mentioned most frequently by employers and others who evaluate the preparedness of college students as a fundamental skill to be able to compete in contemporary society. Consequently, oral communication is a crucial skill needed for success in virtually every field of endeavor.*

*All students must demonstrate competency in the fundamentals of oral communication prior to completing sixty credits. Oral communication competency shall be demonstrated by:*

- 1. Completing successfully an approved course in oral communication: [COM 1010](#); [ENG 3060](#) (Schools and colleges may also have specific requirements, such that careful course selection can lead to meeting both General Education and college requirements. Please consult the College/School listing for specific requirements.); OR*
- 2. Passing the **Oral Communication Competency Examination**; OR*
- 3. Transferring credit received for successful completion of a comparable course taken at another college or university."*

Participating in the OCCE does not guarantee fulfillment of the Oral Communication requirement. Only students that have successfully passed both Part I and Part II in the same academic year will have met the Oral Communication requirement through the OCCE.

### Class Standing:

Academic class standing has NO bearing on results of the OCCE. It is strongly recommended that students wishing to fulfill their Oral Communication requirement through the OCCE do so **prior** to their graduating semester. No exceptions will be made for graduating students that do not successfully pass the OCCE; therefore it is recommended if seeking to fulfill Oral Communication requirements through the OCCE to do so prior to the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

**Exam Date/Time:**

The exam date and time is chosen during the first few weeks of the semester in which the exam is taking place. Dates and times of exams are firm; we will not grant exceptions or make other arrangements due to scheduling conflicts, work obligations, etc. The only exception is closure of the university on exam day. If the university should close for emergency or weather purposes, an alternate date will be scheduled.

**OCCE Part I General Information:**

Part I of the OCCE takes two hours and consists of a speech analysis and multiple-choice examination. The speech analysis involves watching an informative speech and identifying particular aspects of it. Speech and analysis questions will be provided at the time of the exam. Questions for the multiple-choice exam are derived from the current COM 1010 textbook: *Speech Craft* by Josh Gunn. Two copies have been made available for reservation at the undergraduate library. You may also purchase 6-month access through the bookstore or from the publisher's site:

<https://reg.macmillanhighered.com/Account/Unauthenticated?TargetURL=http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/speechcraft1e/7165066>

**All students who earn a cumulative (exam and speech analysis) passing grade (70% or higher) on Part I of the examination will have an opportunity to participate in Part II of the examination. Those who do not earn a grade of 70% or better will not be able to earn oral competency credit this semester and may register for a 1010 section space/time permitting, or may attempt Part I again the next time it is offered.**

**REGISTRATION FOR PART I:**

For Part I registration, please remit **\$20.00 in a check or money order (No cash or cards) payable to Wayne State University** and a registration form **filled out electronically** to the Department of Communication prior to the exam deadline:

Jamie Cobb  
Dept. of Communication  
Wayne State University, 906 W. Warren,  
585 Manoogian Hall,  
Detroit, MI 48201.

**OCCE Part II General Information:**

Part II of the OCCE requires students to accomplish the following: a 5-7 minute Informative Speech; prepare a full-sentence preparation outline (including references, both in-text and attached as a reference sheet); and prepare an audience analysis statement (guidelines available under Part II Information on the OCCE site). Part II may only be attempted once. Should a student receive a No Pass, they must fulfill the Oral Communication requirement through alternative means (see General Education requirements above).

REGISTRATION FOR PART II:

For Part II registration, please remit **\$20.00 in a check or money order (No cash or cards) payable to Wayne State University** and a registration form **filled out electronically** to the Department of Communication prior to the exam deadline:

Jamie Cobb  
Dept. of Communication  
Wayne State University, 906 W. Warren,  
585 Manoogian Hall,  
Detroit, MI 48201.

**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 OCE.**