

World Languages, Speaking and Listening

Definition

Effective speaking and listening in any language involves prepared, purposeful communication designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors (adapted from the AAC&U Oral Communication VALUE rubric). World languages, whether ancient or modern (including signed), incorporate practices designed to transmit and receive information, promote interactions with broader communities, and aid in the understanding of human history and culture.

Rationale and Intent

Effective Oral Communication is among the most highly valued skills for college graduates entering the workforce (Hart Research Associates 2018, <https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2018EmployerResearchReport.pdf>). Increasingly, these employment opportunities also require our graduates to engage in oral communication in languages other than English (Partnership for a New American Economy 2016, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/MA-Biliteracy-Brief.pdf>). The Fitchburg State University LA&S Curriculum's foundational World Languages, Speaking and Listening learning outcome and course requirement is intended to help prepare our students to lead, serve and succeed through effective oral communication in English or communication in another modern or ancient world language. To ensure that students have the opportunity to further develop foundational learning goals throughout their general education curriculum, courses designated as a Critical and Creative Thinking across the Disciplines (CCTAD) course must include at least one of these goals as a secondary skill. World Languages, Speaking and Listening may therefore be selected as one of the secondary skills in the CCTAD.

Goal

Fitchburg State University students will develop and apply skills for communicating effectively in a spoken or signed world language, in order to disseminate knowledge, reach a broader audience, and foster understanding across people and cultures.

Potential Course Objectives

The objectives below are recommended as models for general education course syllabi. The list is not meant to be complete. Faculty should feel free to adopt these as course objectives, or they may develop their own.

- Make comparisons between one's own language and culture and those of others.
- Articulate ways in which speaking and listening are determined by cultural and social context.
- Use speaking and listening to identify and explain the main ideas and supporting details of the studied material.
- Exercise receptive communication skills to acquire new vocabulary and evaluate the input received in English or another world language.
- Translate and interpret texts in another language.
- Clarify information for others.
- Initiate dialogues and discussions on class topics and current events.
- Give informed, supported, and effective class presentations.
- Contrast, interpret and express opinions on the material learned.
- Use their oral and aural proficiency to express views and opinions about local and global matters