



# The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview “OPI”

## General Description

The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview, or OPI, as it is often called, is a standardized procedure for the global assessment of functional speaking ability. The interview is interactive and continuously adapts to the experiences, interests and linguistic competence of the candidate. Through a series of personalized questions, a sample of speech is elicited and rated according to the proficiency levels described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)*.

The OPI assesses language proficiency in terms of the speaker’s ability to use the language effectively and appropriately in real-life situations. It is not concerned with, nor does it address when, where, why, or the way in which a speaker has acquired his/her language. The OPI is not an achievement test assessing a speaker’s acquisition of specific aspects of a language and/or vocabulary. The OPI does not compare one individual’s performance to others, but each individual performance to the assessment criteria in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)*.

Test Length: 20-30 minutes.

Test Format: A live telephonic interview between an ACTFL Certified Tester and a candidate, which is digitally recorded by the LTI IVR system. It resembles a conversation between two people but, in fact, follows a strict, standardized structure and elicitation protocol.

Test Content: Content is adapted to the candidate’s academic, professional and experiences, as well as any special skills or interests.

Rating: A criterion referenced assessment. The ACTFL Certified Tester compares the speech produced by the candidate in the interview to the rating criteria as described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)*; one of ten possible ratings is assigned.

Languages: Proficiency assessments are offered in the following 50+ languages by telephone: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Cantonese, Cebuano, Chavacano, Czech, Dari, Dutch, Egyptian, English, Filipino, French, German, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hmong, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Korean, Lao, Malay, Mandarin, Mong, Norwegian, Pashto, Persian Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian/Croatian, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Wu.