

**Foreign Language Requirement
Excerpts from the Graduate Handbook
Department of History
Revised 2021**

Doctoral students must establish reading proficiency in a foreign language. Students will demonstrate their proficiency by one of the following methods:

1. A student may provide evidence of passing the final course of a four-semester sequence, or the equivalent, in one foreign language at the undergraduate level with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better and a 3.0 or higher in the final course in the sequence. In the case of students whose coursework makes it difficult to determine if they have met this standard, the Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies will, in consultation with the major advisor, determine the student's status. Or,
2. A student may provide evidence of having passed an equivalent graduate- level reading/translation examination at another accredited university. Or,
3. A student may pass a foreign language examination certifying that, with the aid of a dictionary and other printed reference materials, the student is able to understand a text relevant to the student's research well enough to use primary sources and secondary literature written in that language. Or,
4. A student may present proof of successfully completing an immersion or other intensive language training program which provides reading proficiency. This can include, but is not limited to, academic immersion programs and government/military language training.

The reading comprehension examination shall be set by an appropriate expert in the Department of Modern Languages in consultation with the student. The examination shall be administered under the following conditions:

1. The student will be permitted to use any print dictionaries, verb books or other standard tools the student deems necessary.
2. The student will receive a copy of the submission from the evaluator after it has been graded and a copy of the evaluator's comments explaining the assessment of the student's performance.
3. If the Department of Modern Languages does not have an appropriate language expert, but another faculty member is able to examine the language, the student's supervisory committee can authorize that faculty member to administer the language exam.

In exceptional circumstances – including but not limited to, the unavailability of a professor to conduct a language exam – the supervisory committee, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Department of History, may devise a remedy satisfactory

to all to establish the student's language ability.

Supervisory committees may specify which method the student must use to demonstrate proficiency. Further, the supervisory committee may require that the student demonstrate a higher standard of proficiency in a foreign language, and/or additional specialized research skills, including an additional foreign language.

All Ph.D. students must complete the foreign language requirement and any other research proficiencies required by their supervisory committee prior to the taking of the preliminary examination.

The Director of Graduate Studies will supervise procedures that will insure the orderly recording of the results of language proficiency examinations or the certification of other research proficiency requirements. (see: pertinent forms printed in this Handbook, pp. 17 & 18) – *copied on the next two pages*

**Department of History
Kansas State University**

Foreign Language Requirement

Student Name:

Student ID Number:

Language:

Departmental Minimum Standard for a Passing Grade:

- Student will provide evidence that a 4-semester sequence (or equivalent) of the foreign language was passed at the undergraduate level with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better with a 3.0 or better grade in 4th or final course in the sequence; OR

- Student will provide evidence that an equivalent graduate-level reading/translation examination was passed at another accredited university; OR

- Student will pass a foreign language examination certifying reading/translation proficiency at the “intermediate-high” level, as defined by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Examination will be set by an appropriate expert in the Department of Modern Languages (or expert designated by committee if no expert is available in the Department of Modern Languages) and administered under the following conditions:
 - a. use of any dictionaries, verb books or other standard tools the student deems necessary;
AND
 - b. the student will receive a copy of the submission from the evaluator after it has been graded and given a copy of the evaluator’s comments explaining the assessment.

Additional requirements or higher standard requested by Doctoral Committee:

Approved by Committee: _____ (date)

Signature of Major Professor: _____
(date)

Signature of Student: _____
(date)

Department of History
Kansas State University
Foreign Language Examination

Student Name:
Student ID Number:
Language:

Departmental Minimum Standard for a Passing Grade:

Reading/translation proficiency at the “intermediate-high” level as defined by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages:

“Able to read consistently with full understanding simple connected texts dealing with basic personal and social needs about which the reader has personal interest and/or knowledge Can get some main ideas and information from texts at the next higher level featuring description and narration. Structural complexity may interfere with comprehension; for example, basic grammatical relations may be misinterpreted and temporal references may rely primarily on lexical items. Has some difficulty with the cohesive factors in discourse, such as matching pronouns with referents. While texts do not differ significantly from those at the Advanced level, comprehension is less consistent. May have to read material several times for understanding.”

The reading/translation examination shall be set by an appropriate expert in the Department of Modern Languages (or expert designated by committee if no expert is available in the Department of Modern Languages) in consultation with the student. The examination shall be administered under the following conditions:

- a. The student will be permitted to use any dictionaries, verb books or other standard tools he or she deems necessary.
- b. The student will receive a copy of the submission from the evaluator after it has been graded and given a copy of the evaluator’s comments explaining the assessment of the student’s performance.

Additional requirements or higher standard requested by Doctoral Committee:

PASS / FAIL

Examiner: _____

Signature of Examiner: _____

Date: _____

Comments: