

Academic Outcomes: World Language

Stages of Language Learning

Stage I (Formulaic): Learners understand and produce signs, words, and phrases.

Stage II (Created): Learners understand and produce sentences and strings of sentences.

Stage III (Planned): Learners understand and produce paragraphs and strings of paragraphs.

Stage IV (Extended): Learners understand and produce cohesive texts composed of multiple paragraphs.

Categories of Language Learning

Content

Language users address a wide variety of topics that are appropriate to their age and stage. As students develop their ability to communicate in the target language and culture, they are able to more fully address topics that increase in complexity along the Language Learning Continuum.

Communication

Real-world communication takes place in a variety of ways. It may be interpersonal: culturally appropriate listening, reading, viewing, speaking, signing, and writing take place as a shared activity among language users. It may be interpretive: language users listen, view, and read by using knowledge of cultural products, practices, and perspectives. It may be presentational: speaking, signing, and writing take place in culturally appropriate ways.

Cultures

Culturally appropriate language use requires an understanding of the relationship between the products and practices of the culture and its underlying perspectives. Students must acquire the ability to interact appropriately with target culture bearers in order to communicate successfully. This category allows students to make connections and comparisons between languages and cultures.

Structures

The content standards use the term structures to capture the multiple components of grammar that learners must control in order to successfully communicate in linguistically and culturally appropriate ways. Students need to acquire orthography, the writing systems of languages that have them; phonology, the sound systems of languages or parameters in ASL; morphology, the rules for word formation; syntax, the principles of sentence structure; semantics, language-based meaning systems; and pragmatics, meaning systems connected to language use.

Settings

Language users need to carry out tasks in a variety of situations representative of those they will experience in the target culture. The success of learner communication will depend on the situation in which the language is used. Understanding social linguistic norms will assist learners in communicating effectively in real-world encounters.