



Translation and Interpreting Program

Oral Proficiency Interview
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Oral Proficiency Interview?

The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is an assessment tool that measures your ability to speak a language by comparing your performance with the standards described in the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines* (<https://www.actfl.org/uploads/files/general/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012.pdf>). All students need to achieve an oral proficiency test rating of **Advanced High** or **Superior** in their weaker language (as determined by the program faculty in consultation with the student) before enrolling in TRIN 1083—Interpreting Skills II. Ratings of **Advanced Mid** are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Who needs to take this test?

Students who are currently enrolled in TRIN 1033—Interpreting Skills I

Why is the Oral Proficiency Interview required for the TRIN Program?

The OPI is used to assess spoken language competency in order to ensure that you are able to meet the basic linguistic standards required for a career in Translation or Interpreting.

When should I take this test?

We only schedule tests for students currently enrolled in Interpreting Skills I (TRIN 1033). OPIs are frequently taken between the 6th and 10th week of the semester. Typically, this is in October during the fall semester and in March during the spring semester. OPIs may be scheduled over the summer for exceptional cases; a proctor must be arranged in advance.

Where and what time can I come in to test?

Tests are by appointment only. Tests are taken at Century College (3300 Century Avenue North, White Bear Lake, MN 55110). Arrangements for remote students are made on a case-by-case basis.

How much does the test cost?

A course fee that covers the cost of the test is attached to TRIN 1033 (that is, you pay the fee together with your tuition). If you miss your scheduled exam or cancel it after the late-cancel deadline you will have to pay a \$60 no-show fee to the Business Office. If your score is lower than the program requires, you are responsible for paying the cost of a re-test, which is currently \$145. Retests must generally be scheduled at least six months after the initial test.

How do I schedule an oral proficiency interview?

Your instructor and the TRIN Lab Assistant will work with you to schedule the test. **You will hear more information about scheduling in your TRIN 1033 class.**

When will I know when I am scheduled?

We will contact you via your Century email account with a testing date and time as soon as your appointment has been confirmed.

What if I cannot make it to my appointment?

Cancellations and requests to reschedule must take place with at least 2 business days' notice to avoid being charged a no show fee. **Please note that you must provide the TRIN lab assistant with time to cancel with the company at least 3 business days before your scheduled test.** The TRIN lab assistant works Monday-Thursday evenings, and **cancellation/rescheduling requests will not be processed outside those hours.** If you are unable to make the appointment at the last minute or are late for your appointment, you will have to pay a \$60 no-show fee. Your re-test will be coordinated through the TRIN Lab Assistant.

What OPI rating do I need to achieve in order to proceed with my TRIN degree?

While it is important to note that the Oral Proficiency Interview is a process of assessing students' spoken abilities and there is no 'passing score,' TRIN program students must receive a rating of Advanced High or Superior in the weaker language (as determined by the program faculty) before the student may register for TRIN 1083 or higher courses. Advanced Mid placements are considered on a case-by-case basis. Students with a rating of Advanced Mid may be expected to fulfill additional requirements, which may include additional coursework to improve language skills.

How and when will I get the results?

Results will be emailed to your Century College email account, and the lab assistant will make a printed copy of the certificate available to you. We generally email all the current semester's students their results at the same time, usually mid-semester.

What happens if I don't fulfill the TRIN OPI requirements?

If you do not fulfill the TRIN OPI requirements you have two options:

1. You can work on improving your language skills and re-test. We strongly suggest waiting at least 6 months and taking one or more high-level language-focused courses before retesting. It generally takes 120-130 hours of direct instruction in a language to improve a level on the OPI. While you are working on your language skills and waiting to retest you may continue to take other (non TRIN designated) courses required for the certificate or diploma.
2. You may decide not to pursue the TRIN program and possibly reapply at a later date.