

Versant Spanish Test and ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviews

A research study was conducted to relate the Versant Spanish Test scores with the Speaking Proficiency Guidelines used by the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

A number of Spanish departments at universities in the United States were contacted and asked to have students take the Versant Spanish Test and an official Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) certified by ACTFL. Fifty-two university students from the US agreed to participate in the study.

Participants took the ACTFL interview within a day of the Versant Spanish Test. The standard ACTFL interview was administered by telephone with at least two official ACTFL ratings per interview. Raters from Language Testing International (LTI) administered all the certified OPIs for ACTFL. LTI is the exclusive licensee for ACTFL testing.

A regression equation was generated from the data, and an ACTFL level was estimated for each Versant Spanish Test score.

The following table provides Versant Spanish Test score ranges and their associated ACTFL level description for speaking.

Versant Spanish Test Overall Score	Best Estimate of ACTFL Level
20 – 22	Novice Mid
23 – 32	Novice High
33 – 42	Intermediate Low
43 – 52	Intermediate Mid
53 – 62	Intermediate High
63 – 72	Advanced Low
73 – 79	Advanced Mid
80	Advanced High or higher