

## A&S CHECKLIST for EVALUATING LANGUAGE FLUENCY of HERITAGE SPEAKERS

**Heritage speakers** are those who learned the language at home but received little or no formal instruction in that language.

**Language fluency** encompasses four areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing, ranging in that order from the simplest to the most complex linguistic tasks.

**Evaluation** of language fluency may be accomplished in several different ways, but in order to reduce the amount of time necessary to assess the skills of an individual speaker, the following checklist should allow a fair examination in about 20 minutes.

### **Listening** (10 minutes)

In a ten-minute conversation conducted exclusively in the target language on a general topic, the speaker was able to understand:

- \_\_\_\_\_ everything
- \_\_\_\_\_ most of the conversation
- \_\_\_\_\_ about half after repetitions in a simpler vocabulary

### **Speaking**

In the same ten-minute conversation, the speaker was able to communicate

- \_\_\_\_\_ on a fairly sophisticated level with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ on a standard level well within the expectations of ordinary conversation
- \_\_\_\_\_ poorly with awkward grammar and a simple vocabulary

### **Reading** (5 minutes)

The student provided a non-fiction text (newspaper or magazine) in the target language. The Evaluator selected a short passage and the reader was able, after five minutes of silently reading, to explain in the target language

- \_\_\_\_\_ an idea from the text in considerable detail
- \_\_\_\_\_ a clear understanding of the topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ a vague idea of the topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ no comprehension of the text

### **Writing** (5 minutes)

In a five-minute essay written on the spot in the target language on a general topic, the writer was able to express

- \_\_\_\_\_ fairly sophisticated ideas with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ a general concept with ordinary grammar and a general vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ a simple idea with basic grammar and a simple vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ no ability to write in the target language

Please attach the essay to this form for submission.

What language is being tested: \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ M number \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature, name and title)

The Evaluator should mail /email this form and completed essay to the Director of Language Instruction, Nuria López-Ortega (ML0377 or lopezonr@ucmail.uc.edu) who will make a recommendation to the College of Arts & Sciences regarding waiver of the A&S language requirement.