

Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate

Minnesota Bilingual/Multilingual Seals

What is the Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate? The Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate was created as an official recognition by the state of Minnesota in 2009. It indicates that you have demonstrated that you are proficient in a language **other than English** at the Intermediate Low Level according to the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines. (<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>)

What are the Minnesota Bilingual and Multilingual Seals? The Minnesota Bilingual and Multilingual Seals were legislated in June 2015. The Bilingual Seal is awarded for proficiency in another language in addition to English. The Multilingual Seal is awarded for proficiency in two or more languages **in addition to English**. The level of each seal is defined according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines. The criteria for the Bilingual/Multilingual **Gold Seal** is ACTFL Intermediate High; Bilingual/Multilingual **Platinum Seal** is ACTFL Advanced Low.

What do those levels mean about a student's communicative ability?

1. **ACTFL Intermediate Low level** proficiency is considered to be a minimum level proficiency needed to function in familiar situations in the real world.
2. **ACTFL Intermediate High level** proficiency is a highly functional level which allows you to communicate effectively in many informal and formal situations.
3. **ACTFL Advanced Low level** proficiency indicates the ability to handle a variety of communicative tasks in most informal and some formal situations which are beyond the range of topics handled by Intermediate speakers to include the capacity to use sufficient accuracy.

How can I earn a World Language Proficiency Certificate or a Bilingual/Multilingual Seal?

You must demonstrate the proficiency specified for each level of the recognition through assessments. Multilingual Department hosts testing sessions on Saturdays in each year. If you are interested in earning one in the language you are studying at school, your language teacher might be able to provide an opportunity for testing. For a Bilingual/Multilingual Seal, students also must meet English Language Arts requirements for graduation. Seals are awarded upon graduation. AP and IB DP language exams are also ways to demonstrate proficiency. The charts below show which scores are needed to correlate to the ACTFL levels needed for each level of recognition.

AP Exam:

Score	ACTFL Level	Recognition
Score 5	ACTFL Advanced Low	Bilingual Platinum Seal
Score 4	ACTFL Intermediate High	Bilingual Gold Seal
Score 3	ACTFL Intermediate Low	World Language Proficiency Certificate

IB DP Exam

Score	SL exam	Recognition	Score	HL exam	Recognition
7	ACTFL Advanced Low	Platinum Seal	7	ACTFL Advanced Low	Platinum Seal
6			6		
5	ACTFL Intermediate High	Gold Seal	5		
4			4		
3	ACTFL Intermediate Low	Proficiency Certificate	3	ACTFL Intermediate High	Gold Seal
2	N/A		2	ACTFL Intermediate Low	Proficiency Certificate
1	N/A		1	N/A	

How do I know if I am ready for the test? How do I decide what levels to take?

It takes a long time to develop proficiency in a language. The time it takes to reach each level varies from individual to individual. There are many different factors that play a role in developing language proficiency such as experiences living overseas, regular frequent exposure to the language outside the school, etc... The general recommendation is that if you have studied the language only at high school or have had 3-4 years of studies only at school, you might want to try for World Language Proficiency Certificate. Your teacher should be able to provide guidance as well.

What kind of documentation do I receive for the World Language Proficiency Certificate or the Bilingual/Multilingual Seal?

The awards will be recorded in your high school transcript. For the Seals, they will be entered in June in the year of your high school graduation, even if you took the test in an earlier year. You will also receive a physical certificate when you graduate high school. For a proficiency certificate, it will be recorded on your transcript in June of the school year in which you earned it. You will also receive a letter with your test results from the Multilingual Department. Below is an example of how an award will be recorded in your transcript:

- Platinum Seal - MN BILINGUAL PLATINUM SEAL (Name of a language) ACTFL AL
- Gold Seal - MN BILINGUAL GOLD SEAL (Name of a language) ACTFL IH
- Proficiency Certificate - MN WORLD LANG PROF CERTIF (Name of a language) ACTFL IL

Can I receive college credit for my World Language Proficiency Certificate or Bilingual Seal?

Yes. Minnesota State (formerly known as MnSCU) has determined to award the following number of credits to each level of language proficiency. See the chart below.

Recognition	Criteria	Number of credits
Bilingual/Multilingual Platinum Seal	ACTFL Advanced Low + English Language Arts credit	4 semesters
Bilingual/Multilingual Gold Seal	ACTFL Intermediate High + English Language Arts credit	3 semesters
World Language Proficiency Certificate	ACTFL Intermediate Low	2 semesters

How do I get that college credit?

The bilingual seal legislation states that a student **must be enrolled** in a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institution and **must request** college credits for the seal or proficiency certificate within **three academic years** after graduating from high school. You should consult with your advisor at a Minnesota State college.

What is Minnesota State?

It is a Minnesota State wide system of 31 colleges and universities. They are located in 47 communities offering over 5,400 educational programs statewide. Please go to this link to see a list of colleges and universities:

<http://minnstate.edu/colleges/campuses.html>

Note: The University of Minnesota is **not a part of Minnesota State colleges. The College of Liberal Arts at University of Minnesota has its own policies and protocol for awarding credit.*

Do I receive MPS high school credit?

This will depend on how you earned the recognition.

- If you earned the recognition in the language you are studying at school, you will not obtain any additional high school credit other than receiving elective world language credit through passing the language course.
- If you earned the recognition in a language for which you are not enrolled at school, you can earn elective high school credit. For example, if you are a student who is enrolled in a Japanese course, but earned a Bilingual Seal in Spanish, you will earn elective high school credit for the seal or certificate in Spanish. Please make a request by writing to ayumi.stockman@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Recognition	The number of MPS credit
Bilingual/Multilingual Platinum Seal	5
Bilingual/Multilingual Gold Seal	4
World Language Proficiency Certificate	3

Who can help me if I have difficulties getting my college credits acknowledged?

The Bilingual/Multilingual Seal is new system and many people may not be familiar with it yet. If you run into difficulties about receiving credits with your seal, please contact: ayumi.stockman@mpls.k12.mn.us

MDE webpage:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/stds/world/index.htm>

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