

**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh**  
**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**

**Maximum Class Size Statement**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has established and adheres to the following maximum class size limits:

Beginning and Intermediate-level language courses:	25
Intermediate-level conversation courses:	20
Spanish 312 (Advanced Grammar)	30
Upper-level, Advanced courses:	25
248 (through CAPP)	25

Our practice reflects consideration of positions taken by both the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages.

In May 2008, ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) issued the following position statement on class size:

*Given the goals of a standards-based language program (i.e., the development of students' communicative competence), there must be opportunity for frequent and meaningful student-to-teacher and student-to-student interaction, monitored practice, and individual feedback during instructional time. This warrants attention to a class size that remains as small as possible.*

In May 2010, ACTFL issued a second statement:

*Since the goal of a standards-based language program is to develop students' ability to communicate, there must be opportunities for frequent and meaningful student-to-teacher and student-to-student interaction, monitored practice, and individual feedback during instructional time.*

*Therefore, while ACTFL recognizes the fiscal realities faced by schools and institutions of higher education, ACTFL supports the recommended class size of no more than 15 students, made by both the National Education Association (NEA) and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL). Since the most important consideration in determining class size should be pedagogical efficacy, ACTFL's position applies to both traditional and online classroom settings. Where larger class sizes exist, teachers must be provided with additional support in order to maintain sound pedagogical practices.*

The Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL) reaffirms its position that the maximum class size for foreign language instruction in classes where all four skills are equally stressed should not exceed 20. We hold that the optimum class size is 15. In any case, particularly at the elementary and intermediate levels, class size must be small enough to enable--rather than to inhibit--the kind of effective interaction between teacher and students necessary to developing proficiency in the language.