#### **NCSSFL-ACTFL CAN-DO STATEMENTS**

# **PROFICIENCY BENCHMARKS**

NOVICE	
PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	

# INTERMEDIATE PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

#### COMMUNICATION

INTERPRETIVE	I can identify the general topic and some basic information in both very familiar and everyday contexts by recognizing practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences in texts that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can understand the main idea and some pieces of information on familiar topics from sentences and series of connected sentences within texts that are spoken, written, or signed.						
INTERPERSONAL	I can communicate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on both very familiar and everyday topics, using a variety of practiced or memorized words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions.	I can participate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on familiar topics, creating sentences and series of sentences to ask and answer a variety of questions.						
PRESENTATIONAL	I can communicate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on both very familiar and everyday topics, using a variety of practiced or memorized words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions.	I can participate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on familiar topics, creating sentences and series of sentences to ask and answer a variety of questions.						

#### **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

INVESTIGATE	In my own and other cultures <i>I can</i> identify products and practices to help me understand perspectives.	In my own and other cultures <i>I can</i> make comparisons between products and practices to help me understand perspectives.
INTERACT	<i>I can</i> interact at a survival level in some familiar everyday contexts.	I can interact at a functional level in some familiar contexts.

# NCSSFL-ACTFL CAN-DO STATEMENTS PROFICIENCY BENCHMARKS

DISTINGUISHED

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	Proficiency benchmark	
	COMMUNICATION		
I can understand the main message and supporting details on a wide variety of familiar and general interest topics across various time frames from complex, organized texts that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can interpret and infer meaning from complex, academic and professional texts on a range of unfamiliar, abstract, and specialized issues that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can interpret and infer meaning from dense, structurally sophisticated texts on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, with deeply embedded cultural references and colloquialisms and dialects that are spoken, written, or signed.	INTERPRETIVE
I can maintain spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations and discussions across various time frames on familiar, as well as unfamiliar, concrete topics, using series of connected sentences and probing questions.	I can participate fully and effectively in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed discussions and debates on issues and ideas ranging from broad general interests to my areas of specialized expertise, including supporting arguments and exploring hypotheses.	I can interact, negotiate, and debate on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, fully adapting to the cultural context of the conversation, using spoken, written, or signed language.	INTERPERSONAL
I can maintain spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations and discussions across various time frames on familiar, as well as unfamiliar, concrete topics, using series of connected sentences and probing questions.	I can participate fully and effectively in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed discussions and debates on issues and ideas ranging from broad general interests to my areas of specialized expertise, including supporting arguments and exploring hypotheses.	I can interact, negotiate, and debate on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, fully adapting to the cultural context of the conversation, using spoken, written, or signed language.	PRESENTATIONAL

SUPERIOR

**ADVANCED** 

#### **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

In my own and other cultures <i>I</i> can explain some diversity among products and practices and how it relates to perspectives.	In my own and other cultures <i>I can</i> suspend judgment while critically examining products, practices, and perspectives.	In my own and other cultures  I can objectively evaluate products and practices and mediate perspectives.	INVESTIGATE
I can interact at a competent level in familiar and some unfamiliar contexts.	I can interact in complex situations to ensure a shared understanding of culture.	I can engage with complexity and pluricultural identities and serve as a mediator between and among cultures.	INTERACT



# **INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION**





NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	SUPERIOR DISTINGUISHED
--------	--------------	----------	------------------------

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	proficiency benchmark
<i>I can</i> identify the general topic and some basic information in both very familiar and everyday contexts by recognizing practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences in texts that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can understand the main idea and some pieces of information on familiar topics from sentences and series of connected sentences within texts that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can understand the main message and supporting details on a wide variety of familiar and general interest topics across various time frames from complex, organized texts that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can interpret and infer meaning from complex, academic and professional texts on a range of unfamiliar, abstract, and specialized issues that are spoken, written, or signed.	I can interpret and infer meaning from dense, structurally sophisticated texts on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, with deeply embedded cultural references and colloquialisms and dialects that are spoken, written, or signed.

# What can I understand, interpret or analyze in authentic informational texts?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERI	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERI	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERFORMANCE	performance
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts.	I can identify some basic facts from memorized words and phrases when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts.	I can identify the topic and some isolated facts from simple sentences in informational texts.	·	I can understand the main idea and key information in short straightforward informational texts.	I can usually follow the main message in various time frames in straightforward, and sometimes descriptive, paragraph-length informational texts.	I can identify the underlying message and some supporting details across major time frames in descriptive informational texts.	message and most supporting details across major time frames	I can follow the flow of ideas and infer meaning from complex language on unfamiliar, abstract topics within informational texts.	unfamiliar, abstract topics in	I can easily understand sophisticated language, regardless of the cultural context in professional, technical and academic texts.

# What can I understand, interpret or analyze in authentic fictional texts?

PER	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			performance
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
<b>I can</b> identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts.	I can identify some basic facts from memorized words and phrases when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts.	I can identify the topic and some isolated elements from simple sentences in short fictional texts.	, ,	I can understand the main idea and key information in short straightforward fictional texts.	story and actions expressed	I can follow the main story and some supporting detail across major time frames in fictional texts.	,	1	I can follow the flow of ideas and infer meaning on unfamiliar, abstract topics in complex language from fictional texts.	I can interpret tone, nuance, and mood in almost any genre of fictional texts.

# What can I understand, interpret or analyze in conversations and discussions?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	formance indicat	ORS	PER	RFORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	performance	performance
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
<b>I can</b> understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations.	I can identify some basic facts from memorized words and phrases when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations.	I can understand familiar questions and statements from simple sentences in conversations.	I can identify the main idea in short conversations.	I can identify the main idea and key information in short straightforward conversations.	I can usually understand the main idea and flow of events expressed in various time frames in conversations and discussions.	I can understand the main message and some supporting details across major time frames in conversations and discussions.	I can understand the main message and most supporting details across major time frames in conversations and discussions.	and some nuances from different viewpoints in conversations and	·	I can interpret tone, nuance, and mood in almost any extended conversation and discussion.



INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
PROFICIENCY BENCHMARKS + PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	Proficiency Benchmark	proficiency benchmark
I can communicate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on both very familiar and everyday topics, using a variety of practiced or memorized words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions.	I can participate in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations on familiar topics, creating sentences and series of sentences to ask and answer a variety of questions.	I can maintain spontaneous spoken, written, or signed conversations and discussions across various time frames on familiar, as well as unfamiliar, concrete topics, using series of connected sentences and probing questions.	I can participate fully and effectively in spontaneous spoken, written, or signed discussions and debates on issues and ideas ranging from broad general interests to my areas of specialized expertise, including supporting arguments and exploring hypotheses.	I can interact, negotiate, and debate on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, fully adapting to the cultural context of the conversation, using spoken, written, or signed language.

# How can I **exchange information and ideas** in conversations?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				PERFORMANCE	performance		
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I can request and provide information by asking and answering a few simple questions on very familiar and everyday topics, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences.	I can request and provide information by asking and answering practiced and some original questions on familiar and everyday topics, using simple sentences most of the time.	I can request and provide information in conversations on familiar topics by creating simple sentences and asking appropriate follow-up questions.	I can exchange information in conversations on familiar topics and some researched topics, creating sentences and series of sentences and asking a variety of follow-up questions.	discussions on a variety of	I can exchange information and ideas in discussions on a variety of familiar and concrete academic and social topics, using a few simple paragraphs across major time frames.	I can maintain discussions on a wide variety of familiar and unfamiliar concrete topics of personal and general interest, and sometimes academic, social or professional topics, by using probing questions and providing detailed responses across major time frames.	I can discuss and sometimes debate a variety of complex concrete and some abstract academic, social and professional topics and often deal with related issues hypothetically, using precise questions and explanations.	I can discuss and debate a wide variety of complex issues and abstract ideas using precise, sophisticated, and academic language.	I can debate complex issues and abstract ideas skillfully and succinctly, tailoring language to the cultural context of the interaction, using cultural and historical references as appropriate.

# How can I meet my needs or address situations in conversations?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERFORMANCE	performance
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I can express basic needs related to familiar and everyday activities, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and questions.	I can interact with others to meet my basic needs related to routine everyday activities, using simple sentences and questions most of the time.	, ,	I can interact with others to meet my needs in a variety of familiar situations, creating sentences and series of sentences and asking a variety of follow-up questions.	a complication, using connected	I can interact and negotiate to resolve an unexpected complication that arises in a familiar situation, using a few simple paragraphs across major time frames.	I can interact and negotiate to resolve an unexpected complication that arises in a familiar situation, providing detailed explanations and offering a variety of resolutions across major time frames.	I can interact and negotiate to resolve an unexpected complication in a situation that is generally unfamiliar.	I can interact and negotiate to resolve abstract and complex matters on a wide variety of topics in a variety of situations.	I can interact and negotiate to resolve highly abstract and complex matters in culturally appropriate ways on a wide variety of topics and to persuasively advocate a point of view that is not necessarily my own.

# How can I express, react to, and support preferences and opinions in conversations?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE	PERFORMANCE
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I can express my own preferences or feelings and react to those of others, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and questions.	I can express, ask about, and react to preferences, feelings, or opinions on familiar topics, using simple sentences most of the time and asking questions to keep the conversation on topic.	I can express, ask about, and react with some details to preferences, feelings, or opinions on familiar topics, by creating simple sentences and asking appropriate follow-up questions.	I can exchange preferences, feelings, or opinions and provide basic advice on a variety of familiar topics, creating sentences and series of sentences and asking a variety of follow-up questions.	I can explain preferences, opinions, and emotions and provide advice on a variety of familiar and some concrete topics that I have researched, using connected sentences that may combine to form paragraphs and asking a variety of questions, often across various time frames.	I can maintain conversations by providing explanations and comparisons of preferences, opinions, and advice on familiar and concrete academic and social topics using a few simple paragraphs across major time frames.	I can maintain extended conversations by supporting, reacting to, and comparing preferences and opinions and expressing advice and emotions in detail across major time frames, and by asking probing questions.	advice on a variety of complex	I can discuss and debate opinions and advice with multiple participants on a wide variety of complex issues and abstract ideas, concretely, abstractly, and hypothetically.	I can tailor language to a variety of audiences by adapting my speech and register in culturally authentic ways.



# **PRESENTATIONAL COMMUNICATION**

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARKS + PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	SUPERIOR	DISTINGUISHED
--------	--------------	----------	----------	---------------

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK	proficiency benchmark
of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences through spoken,	I can communicate information, make presentations, and express my thoughts about familiar topics, using sentences and series of connected sentences through spoken, written, or signed language.	I can deliver detailed and organized presentations on familiar as well as unfamiliar concrete topics, in paragraphs and using various time frames through spoken, written, or signed language.	I can deliver extended presentations on abstract or hypothetical issues and ideas ranging from broad general interests to my areas of specialized expertise, with precision of expression and to a wide variety of audiences, using spoken, written, or signed language.	I can deliver sophisticated and articulate presentations on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts, fully adapting to the cultural context of the audience, using spoken, written, or signed language.

# How can I present information to narrate about my life, experiences and events?

PER	RFORMANCE INDICATORS		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE	performance
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can introduce myself using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I can present information about myself, my interests and my activities using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases and simple sentences.	I can present personal information about my life and activities, using simple sentences most of the time.	I can present personal information about my life, activities and events, using simple sentences.	I can tell a story about my life, activities, events and other social experiences, using sentences and series of connected sentences.	I can tell stories about school and community events and personal experiences, using a few short paragraphs, often across various time frames.	I can tell stories about school and community events and personal experiences, using paragraphs across major time frames.	I can tell stories based on concrete experiences in academic, social, and professional topics of interest, using organized paragraphs across major time frames.	I can give complex detailed narrations beyond the concrete, often addressing abstract experiences or hypothetical issues.	I can present clearly-articulated, coherent and detailed narrations on complex, abstract issues and hypothetical issues.	precisely, often using historical

# How can I present information to give a preference, opinion or persuasive argument?

PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	FORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PER	RFORMANCE INDICAT	ORS	PERFORMANCE	PERFORMANCE
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
I can express my likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I can express my likes and dislikes on very familiar and everyday topics of interest, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases and simple sentences	I can express my preferences on familiar and everyday topics of interest, using simple sentences most of the time.	I can express my preferences on familiar and everyday topics of interest and explain why I feel that way, using simple sentences.	I can state my viewpoint about familiar topics and give some reasons to support it, using sentences and series of connected sentences.	I can state my viewpoint on familiar or researched topics and provide reasons to support it, using a few short paragraphs, often across various time frames.	I can state a viewpoint with supporting evidence on some concrete academic, social and professional topics of interest using paragraphs across major time frames.	I can present an argument with supporting evidence, based on a variety of concrete academic, social and professional topics of interest, using organized paragraphs across major time frames.	I can clearly and accurately present an argument with supporting evidence on complex concrete issues, and often deal with related issues hypothetically.	I can deliver a clearly articulated and well-structured argument, refute counterarguments, and give extensive supporting evidence on abstract or hypothetical issues and ideas, ranging from broad general interests to areas of specialized expertise.	I can tailor a sophisticated presentation to advocate my own or another's point of view or to persuade an audience whose attitudes and cultural perspectives may be different from my own.

# How can I present information to inform, describe, or explain?

PERI	FORMANCE INDICAT	TORS	PER	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PERFORMANCE			PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			PERFORMANCE
LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	LOW	MID	HIGH	INDICATOR	INDICATOR					
places, and objects using	I can present on very familiar and everyday topics using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases and simple sentences.	I can present on familiar and everyday topics, using simple sentences most of the time.	I can present on familiar and everyday topics, using simple sentences.	I can give straightforward presentations on a variety of familiar topics and some concrete topics I have researched, using sentences and series of connected sentences.	researched, using a few short	on some concrete academic, social and professional topics of interest, using paragraphs across	1	I can deliver cohesive presentations on a variety of complex concrete topics related to community interests and some specialized fields, and often deal with related issues hypothetically.	I can deliver clearly articulated and well-structured presentations to various audiences on abstract or hypothetical issues and ideas, ranging from broad general interests to areas of specialized expertise.	I can deliver sophisticated presentations with accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness on global and highly abstract concepts in my field of expertise, adapting my language to the characteristics of the audience and embedding cultural perspectives.					





## INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARKS + PERFORMANCE INDICATORS





#### NOVICE

#### INTERMEDIATE

#### **ADVANCED**

#### **SUPERIOR**

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

#### **DISTINGUISHED**

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK



## INVESTIGATE

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

In my own and other cultures I can identify products and practices to help me understand perspectives.

#### PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

In my own and other cultures I can make comparisons between products and practices to help me understand perspectives.

In my own and other cultures <i>I can</i>
explain some diversity among products
and practices and how it relates to
perspectives.

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

In my own and other cultures *I can* suspend judgment while critically examining products, practices, and perspectives.

In my own and other cultures I can objectively evaluate products and practices and mediate perspectives.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INVESTIGATE

In my own and other cultures *I can* identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In my own and other cultures *I can* compare products related to everyday life and personal interests or studies.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In my own and other cultures *I can* identify some typical practices related to familiar everyday life.

In my own and other cultures *I can* compare practices related to everyday

life and personal interests or studies.



In my own and other cultures *I can* explain how a variety of products of public and personal interest are related to perspectives.

In my own and other cultures *I can* explain how a variety of practices within familiar and social situations are related to perspectives.

In my own and other cultures *I can* analyze how products of personal and public interest are related to perspectives.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In my own and other cultures *I can* analyze how practices within informal and formal situations are related to perspectives.

In my own and other cultures *I can* evaluate a wide range of concrete and abstract products from different

In my own and other cultures *I can* evaluate a wide range of concrete and abstract practices from different viewpoints.

viewpoints.



#### INTERACT

## PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

I can interact at a survival level in some familiar everyday contexts.

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

I can interact at a functional level in some familiar contexts.

#### PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

I can interact at a competent level in familiar and some unfamiliar contexts.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

I can converse comfortably with others

*I can* interact in complex situations to ensure a shared understanding of

culture.

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK

*I can* engage with complexity and pluricultural identities and serve as a mediator between and among cultures. INTERACT

# LANGUAGE

I can communicate with others from the target culture in familiar everyday situations, using memorized language and showing basic cultural awareness.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

I can converse with peers from the target culture in familiar situations at school, work, or play, and show interest in basic cultural similarities and differences.

*I can* recognize that significant

cultures, use appropriate learned

behaviors and avoid major social

blunders.

differences in behaviors exist among

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

show some understanding of cultural differences. I can demonstrate awareness of subtle differences among cultural behaviors

from the target culture in familiar

and some unfamiliar situations and

I can suspend judgement, adapt my language, and make appropriate cultural references when interacting with others from the target culture in social and professional situations.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

*I can* adhere to basic social and professional norms and etiquette, read nonverbal cues and adjust my behavior in complicated situations.

*I can* show empathy and cultural sophistication in my language when interacting in social, academic or professional situations with others from the target culture.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

*I can* transition smoothly from formal to informal styles of behavior, respond effectively to nonverbal cues and mediate situations of cultural misunderstanding with empathy.

BEHAVIOR

I can use appropriate rehearsed behaviors and recognize some obviously inappropriate behaviors in familiar everyday situations.

and adjust my behavior accordingly in familiar and some unfamiliar situations.

NCSSFL-ACTFL CAN-DO STATEMENTS: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS © 2017