

Oral Communication Requirement at IU Northwest

What is the pedagogical purpose of the oral communication (OC) requirement?

The purpose of the OC requirement is to provide students with practice in oral communication, preferably in their major field, with substantive feedback provided by an instructor well acquainted with the standards of good oral communication in that field. Departments and divisions would be allowed considerable latitude in defining what sorts of oral communication experiences are most appropriate for their majors; consequently the sorts of OC courses offered by different departments/divisions will vary.

The outcomes for the IOC requirement provide the IU Northwest graduates will:

- Demonstrate a clearly defined purpose through an effective delivery of oral presentations that manifest logical organization, proper grammar, appropriate word choices, and coherent sentence structure.
- Present a central idea, clearly reasoned arguments, and an audience-centered perspective that takes account of communicative differences across cultures.
- Engage in ethical practices that include citation of credible sources
- Demonstrate effective use of media and technologies that enhance the presentation

What are the standard guidelines and requirements for OC credit?

To qualify for advanced oral communication credit a course must require that a student will conduct or participate in oral communication assignments. A variety of assignments can be designed to satisfy the OC requirement such as creative/aesthetic performances, individual or group presentations and debates, panel discussions, and press conferences.

The instructor is expected to provide criticism (in the form of written or electronic notes attached to assignments, or through conferences) on the oral communication aspects of the course assignments.

What sorts of classes carry OC credit and who teaches them?

Oral communication courses must be taught at the 200 level or above by a qualified instructor. In most cases the instructor will be a regular member of the faculty; under unusual circumstances the instructor may be a visitor or an adjunct faculty with the approval of the department/school.

How big are OC courses and sections?

Classes designated for OC credit should be limited to 30 students whenever possible.

Should students take IOC courses in their own majors?

Whenever possible, students should take OC courses in their major since these courses will be very relevant to their future work within that field. OC courses are meant to further refine and develop oral communication skills that will have applications across the curriculum.

When should students take IOC course and what are the prerequisites?

Students must satisfy the oral communication foundation requirement S121 before enrolling in OC courses.

When is it appropriate for a student to receive a credit for Intensive Oral Communication by Special Arrangement?

It is appropriate only in exceptional cases and only with departmental and university approval and prior to enrollment. Students may meet the OC requirement in conjunction with supervised research, internship, or senior theses, as long as the total amount of oral communication, the structure of oral communication assignments, and the feedback provided by the faculty member all meet the guidelines for OC credit.

Can a student earn OC credit for a course taken at another university?

IU Northwest will not consider coursework taken at another university for OC, unless the chair/dean in the student's major specifically makes such a request in writing. As evidence that the student has successfully completed oral communication assignments comparable to those employed in the department's own OC courses, the request must be accompanied by a copy of the course syllabus and a portfolio documenting the student's oral communication work with the instructor's comments.

How can faculty develop a new OC class and what do they need to do to get it approved?

Instructors who want to offer OC courses should submit requests for a new course or change to the existing course to their school/college curriculum committee. The committee will verify that the proposed assignments meet the general OC guidelines. A signed copy of the form for a new course or change to the existing course with a syllabus must accompany the request.

Who will approve the OC designation?

A course will be designated as a OC course after the approval of the course by originating school/college curriculum committee and then by the IU Northwest Curriculum Committee.