

Module 1: Introduction

What are the goals of this module?

In this module, you will learn about:

- The Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA)
- The different components of the SOPA training program; and
- How to use this training program.

How do I navigate this training program?

First, let's talk about how to navigate this training program. To navigate between the slides in each module, you can click here: on the NEXT button, to see the next slide, and here: on the PREVIOUS button, to go back to the last slide.

At the bottom of each slide, you will also see the volume button to make the audio louder or quieter; the closed-captions button to turn on closed captions and read along with the audio; a seek bar, and a replay button.

You can click on the seek bar to control which part of the screen you want to see, and you can click on the replay button to replay the entire slide.

On the left, you can see the menu. You can click on any title to navigate to the module and slide you want to view. The menu also has a search bar, here. If you are looking for a particular topic, you can search for it. For example, you can type the word "task" into the search bar, and the menu will display all slides that mention tasks.

You can visit CAL's SOPA Training Program site to find the SOPA Resource Library, which contains a transcript of the narrated audio for this training program as well as all other resources for administering, rating, and communicating about the SOPA. There, you can also find the SOPA Video Library where additional SOPA videos are available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese for rating practice.

What is the SOPA?

The Student Oral Proficiency Assessment, or SOPA, is an assessment tool that features a series of tasks designed to assess PK-8 language learners' speaking and listening proficiency according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. The SOPA uses a paired interview format and is given by a trained administrator and rated by a trained rater, resulting in ratings that can range from Novice to Advanced.

SOPA tasks can be modified for any language and used in traditional world language programs, such as Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) programs, as well as dual language/immersion

programs, heritage language programs, and Indigenous language programs. After administrators are trained, the SOPA is free to use as a tool to reliably assess student language growth and inform classroom instruction.

What are the requirements to administer the SOPA?

SOPA administrators must be trained to allow students to give their best performances on the assessment and ensure the accuracy and reliability of ratings. To administer the SOPA, you need to complete this training program, read the *SOPA Manual*, and adapt the SOPA tasks for your language teaching context.

Meanwhile, your program or school may have additional requirements for becoming an administrator. Some programs or schools may ask you to complete a certain amount of practice sessions before administering the SOPA to students. Please talk to your program or school to find out if there are additional requirements and confirm that you have met them all before administering the SOPA.

What is the SOPA Training Program?

This SOPA Training Program is a comprehensive self-access program that trains you to administer and rate the SOPA. It provides language program administrators, instructors, and other SOPA users with comprehensive training on the SOPA format and how to adapt the assessment for your context, supported by videos of SOPA administrations. The training program is presented in English and some of the example videos are in English as well. While there are also some language-specific videos in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese provided in the program, the videos in English are designed to allow users working with any language to see examples and adapt the SOPA for use in their contexts.

What is included in this training program?

Here is what you will learn in the following modules:

Module 1: Introduction provides information about the SOPA Training Program and how it can be used.

Module 2: Understanding and Using the SOPA introduces background information about the SOPA, describes the purpose and structure of the SOPA, and provides guidance on using the SOPA in your program.

Module 3: SOPA Tracks and Tasks presents the tasks included in the two tracks of the SOPA designed to assess students at different proficiency levels.

Module 4: Administering the SOPA provides information on preparing for and administering the SOPA, along with sample SOPA administrations in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese.

Module 5: Rating the SOPA provides information on preparing for and rating the SOPA, along with sample SOPA ratings for assessments in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese.

Module 6: Putting It All Together summarizes what to do before, during, and after using the SOPA.

Module 7: SOPA Rating Practice provides additional practice in rating the SOPA with sample videos in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese.

How can I use this training program?

The SOPA Training Program can be completed individually or as part of a group. To administer and rate the SOPA, you must complete Modules 1-7 and access resources in the SOPA Resource Library and

Video Library on the main website. The full program will take about 15 hours to complete. We recommend completing the training over multiple sessions. Click on each box to learn more about how you can use this training program on your own or with a group.

If you are completing this training by yourself, go through the program at your own pace. You can use the Reflection/Discussion and Video Activities in each module to independently think about what you have learned and how it applies to your own teaching context and experiences. Be sure to check your responses to the Check for Learning quizzes and Rating Practice against the suggested responses and rating justifications.

If you are completing this training with a group, you can review the training materials on your own or together; then you can talk through the Reflection/Discussion and Video Activities in each module with your colleagues and share your own insights and experiences. You can also complete Check for Learning quizzes and Rating Practice in pairs or as a group, comparing and discussing your responses and rating justifications.

What did we cover in this module?

As a reminder, in this module you learned about:

- The Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA)
- The different components of the SOPA training program; and
- How to use this training program.

What should I do now?

Now that you have completed Module 1, you should determine how you will engage with the training program.

Visit the SOPA Resource Library on the main website to download sample plans for individual and group training under the “Resources for planning SOPA training” section. You will also find the *SOPA Manual* there.

Now, let’s move onto Module 2: Understanding and Using the SOPA.