

BLACKFEET LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASS 7 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

GOALS:

1. To assess Blackfeet oral language proficiency of candidates.
2. To assess Blackfeet cultural knowledge base of candidates.

Procedure:

The candidate will make an appointment with the certification committee through the Blackfeet Community College, and a proctor will be assigned for the testing date. The candidate at this time will choose the options that are available for testing. To be approved by the Maatoomiitapiiksi (Whole person committee)

Part I - Blackfeet Oral Language Proficiency (taped session)

Option A – Candidates may present a portfolio to the committee or oral speaking exam. Maatoomiitapiiksi ()

Option B – Candidate will present the story in the Blackfeet storytelling mode with an audience in which the candidate will be addressing: pre-school through college-level students. In this case, the proctor/evaluator would be present for the "live presentation." The candidate will be recorded on a digital or cassette tape for public record only.

Part II - Blackfeet Cultural Knowledge (written or oral/tape session)

The essay questions used will be the same for Option A or B.

Blackfeet Culture Test Essay Questions

1. Explain the origin, operation, and importance of the Blackfeet.
2. Discuss the origin of the Blackfeet people in traditional territory.
3. Tell a Blackfeet Story and why it's important to Blackfeet culture.
4. Explain why the Blackfeet say, "language is important."
5. Explain the traditional and contemporary social activities and ways of the Blackfeet people, i.e., dance, music, foods, games, dress, ceremonies, societies, shelter.

Option A – Candidate will discuss each question orally with the proctor/evaluator in a room. The session will be taped for scoring and public record.

Option B – Candidate will take the Blackfeet Culture Written Test. The candidate will answer five (5) essay questions in a written format. The proctor/evaluator will score the written test.

For both option A and B candidates may

1. Orally in English
2. Orally in Blackfeet

3. Combination of both written English and written Blackfeet
 4. Combination of Spoken English Spoken Blackfeet
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PART III - Demonstration of Teaching Ability

Candidates will make arrangements with the Certification Office and proctor to complete the following requirements:

- A written Blackfeet Culture lesson plan on a topic of choice, including Blackfeet vocabulary.
- A demonstration of teaching methodology in:
 - a) A live presentation with an evaluator observing.
 - b) A video recording of a presentation that is reviewed with the evaluator.

NOTE: Classroom demonstrations and lesson plans must be appropriate for the age group the candidate proposes to work with, i.e., pre-school, K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12th grades, and college level.

PART IV - Re-certification Process for Blackfeet Class 7 Certificate

1. The process will remain the same as stipulated, with one exception: a. Candidates who received their Class 7 Certificates beginning in 1997, after five (5) years, will be required to demonstrate their ability to read and write Blackfeet.
2. All candidates, including those "Grandfathered" candidates, must submit the required documents to the Tribal Certification Office, including their application and filing fees for the Tribal Class 7 Certificate and for the OPI Certification office.
 - a. Attend the Confederacy Language Conference
 - b. Attend Blackfeet Language consortium meetings
 - c. 20 hrs of CEU language/culture specific
 - d. 3 academic credits of Blackfeet language/culture (must be from Blackfeet Community College)

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

It is hereby declared that those Blackfeet Tribal-certified teachers, Blackfeet Instructional Aides, and Blackfeet Language & Culture Teachers/Instructors currently hold a Class 7 will be Grandfathered into the Class 7 certification process.

It is hereby declared that these individuals have met the Blackfeet Tribal Certification Requirements as stipulated.

A. These individuals must submit for verification the following combination of items:

- A current teaching certificate for degree professionals, and/or
- Transcripts of college, continuing education coursework, A.A. Degree in Blackfeet Studies/Early Childhood/Education, or CDA Certificates for paraprofessionals or Instructional Aides, and
- Verification of employment in an educational institution or setting, and
- Verification of Blackfeet Tribal enrollment/descendant; or confederacy CIB; or prior Blackfeet Class 7 endorsement prior to January 1, 2025.

Upon successful completion of this process a sitting member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council will the official Requirements for Montana Class 7 American Indian Language and Culture Specialist License