

The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Oral Communication Competency
June 2006

Department	% Less than Competent	% Competent	% Highly Competent
BUSINESS	1.7	57.6	40.7
EDUCATION	3.33	16.67	80
HISTORY	0	68.75	31.3
LANGUAGE	0	7.7	92.3
MATHEMATICS	10.5	47.9	42.1
NATURAL SCIENCE	0	26.7	73.3
NURSING	0	38.5	61.5
SOCIAL SCIENCE	4	16	65.5
VISUAL ARTS	0	66.7	33.3

Percentage of Total Population Evaluated

Less than Competent 3.2 %

Competent 36.2 %

Highly Competent 60.6 %

The University of Virginia's College at Wise evaluated the oral communication competency of 254 students over the last twelve months using the attached rubric. The majority of these students were seniors, and they were evaluated in senior seminars or capstones which all require oral presentations of seminar or capstone projects. In a few instances students evaluated were juniors, as in the case of history majors who have no capstone, but who must enroll in a research course which requires a substantial paper and oral presentation. The chart above details the percentage of students in each academic department determined to be highly competent, competent or less than competent, based on the scoring of the rubric. (See the attached Oral Communication Competency Plan for Standards for Competency.) Included with the spreadsheet is a calculation of the total percentage of the 254 students found to be highly competent, competent, and less than competent.

These results will be reported to department chairs at the chairs' workshop prior to the beginning of classes in the fall, and they will be asked to share them with their faculty members. Additionally, the Provost has asked the senior communication faculty member to analyze the rubrics for strengths and weaknesses and report those to the chairs as well. He will then require the chairs to determine how they can provide more support for oral communication in their classes and how they can address any weaknesses found. Assessment in the subsequent year will be analyzed carefully to determine whether weaknesses found have been addressed. If needed, revisions will be made in the plans for improvement.