

PROGRAM OF STUDY

DILS Academic Calendar follows the academic calendar of the University of Miami.

Attendance: Students are required to attend the two weekly Practice Sessions regularly. Success in learning a language is dependent upon consistent practice and review. Success in learning to communicate in the language depends primarily on the number of hours of communicative experiences in that language. Students are therefore expected to attend all sessions and to participate actively in session activities. If for any reason they are unable to attend a Session they must inform their Language Partner ahead of time.

Language Learning in DILS: Students are fully responsible for their language study: they must commit daily the necessary time and effort to assimilate the material in the various components of their instructional materials. Students are urged to engage in activities related to the target language in addition to the two weekly Practice Sessions: e.g., organize conversation groups; attend/view films, plays, exhibits, special events related to the language and culture of their study; interview speakers of the target language; maintain language journals, blogs and podcasts using the target language; create videos and i-movies. DILS students are encouraged to develop portfolios of their work in the target language: this is a very satisfying way to enhance language study and an effective way to maintain evidence of language competency.

Self-monitoring: Students are expected to monitor their progress, review frequently their short and long-term goals and adjust their learning strategies as needed. They will submit progress/self-evaluation reports every two weeks to the DILS Director.

End of semester evaluations: At the end of each semester, language faculty from other institutions evaluates DILS students' language competency levels. Evaluation procedures follow the national standardized ACTFL testing scales. ('American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages'). Additional information concerning the testing procedures will be provided during the semester. DILS evaluations take place during UM Reading Days.

The Director of DILS visits the Practice Sessions and meets with students and Language Partners outside the sessions periodically: frequent communication between students, Language Partners and the DILS Director are essential components of the DILS program.