

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS A

August 2022

SUPERPOWER

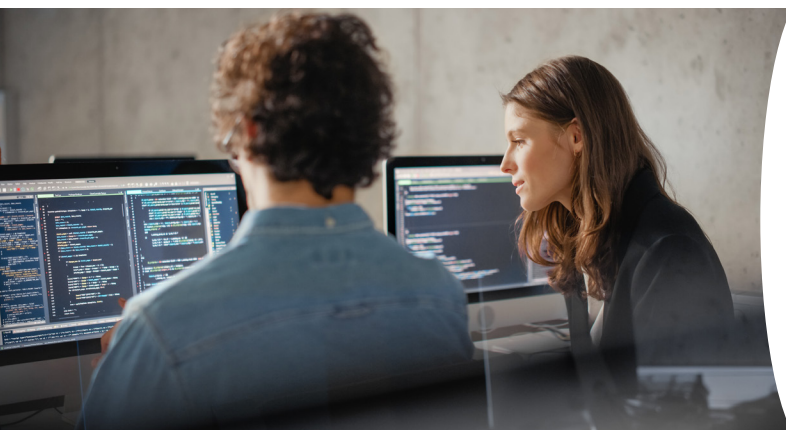
A PASSION FOR WORDS & THEIR SOUNDS

- JACKSON WOLF'S ADVANCED LINGUISTICS DEGREES
- HIS ROLE AT WAYNE STATE'S WRITING CENTER
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY HELPS SUPPORT STUDENTS
- *AND SO MUCH MORE!*

Did you know there's a French side to YouTube? Jackson Wolf is a graduate of Oakland University where he earned a bachelor's degrees in linguistics and French language and literature. Aside from enjoying reading French books, he also watches content, such as Stephen King, horror, sci-fi, and fantasy genres, on the French side of YouTube. Jackson is currently pursuing his master's degree in linguistics at Wayne State University located in Detroit, Michigan. "I am focused on the intersection between phonology and morphology as well as exploring all that the French language and culture has to offer," he shares.



Phonology is the study of the structure of sound in language, including sound patterns and what they mean within a language and across different languages. This discipline within linguistics explores how sounds come together to form speech and words. Morphology studies the structure of words and how words are put together by morphemes, or the smallest units of a word that can't be divided any further (i.e., base words, prefixes, suffixes).



Jackson assessed his French speaking proficiency with the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - computer and received his ACTFL language proficiency certificate and

digital badge. He is now also studying Basque, which he hopes to advance in as well with time. His current occupation is being a tutor at the Writing Center at Wayne State University, where he also began teaching one session of English 1020, an introductory college writing course. At the Writing Center undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines can work with undergraduate and graduate tutors through one-on-one tutoring, online tutoring, group sessions, and student- focused workshops. As a tutor, Jackson works with students to help them complete writing assignments and navigate the multiple levels of the writing process, from developing an initial idea to completing the final draft. He hopes to use his ACTFL credentials to tutor French in the future as well.



"Knowing French and having advanced linguistics degrees will make me twice as marketable and give me the ability to teach some niche classes," Jackson states. He has been able to work with Wayne State's French department and will be helping with French writing assignments at the Writing Center starting next semester. In addition, he is able to enjoy reading content from a different perspective, and occasionally has the opportunity to speak with people he wouldn't otherwise been able to speak with.

As for the ACTFL language proficiency assessment, Jackson describes it as a "big conversation". "They're not asking you to do any equations or solve any problems, they only want to hear your opinions and hear about you," he explains. He encourages bilingual and multilingual speakers to not worry about the testing experience but to see it as a benefit that allows them to assess their level of proficiency and gain an official certification of their language abilities.