



AATSP
¡TODOS A UNA! • TODOS POR UMI!

**National Spanish
Examinations**



The National Spanish & Portuguese Exams are motivational contests that recognize educational achievements in the studies of Spanish & Portuguese.

National Spanish Exam (NSE) ♦ National Portuguese Exam (NPE)
National Spanish Challenge (NSC) ♦ National Spanish Assessments (NSA)

These exams are online, standardized assessment tools given to elementary-high school students throughout the United States to measure performance (interpretive communication) and achievement of students who are studying Spanish or Portuguese as a second language.

Our Purpose

- > To recognize academic achievements
- > To promote proficiency in interpretive communication
- > To assess individual students in comparison to the national standards
- > To stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish & Portuguese

Many teachers state that they use our National Examinations to prepare students to take other standardized tests such as AP, IB, SAT II and college placement exams.

Many administrators state that they can use data from our National Examinations to create reports to show how their schools have improved over an academic year.

The exams evaluate both content *and* performance standards through authentic texts.

1. **Content Standards** (Vocabulary & Grammar)
 - a. What a student should know in a content area at a particular level
2. **Performance Standards** (Reading & Listening)
 - a. What a student should be able to do at a particular proficiency level

Achievement	Proficiency
Vocabulary Grammar	Reading Comprehension Listening Comprehension

Levels: Students must be registered for the National Examination in the level which corresponds to the same course for which the student is receiving credit.

Categories: Students with like-exposure compete with each other by registering in *one* of three competition categories:

1. **Classroom Experience** - a student whose only contact with Spanish/Portuguese is in the classroom.
2. **Outside Experience** - a student who has had specific experiences with Spanish/Portuguese beyond the classroom.
3. **Bilingual** - a student who comes from a home where Spanish/Portuguese is the predominant language

The National Spanish & Portuguese Exams are scored using National Percentiles.

Gold 99-95	Silver 94-85	Bronze 84-75	Honorable Mention 74-50
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NSC - The **National Spanish Challenge** (1st-6th grade competition) has its own specifications and content. There are five Divisions of Competition available and participants that score a specified number of points will earn corresponding Ribbons. Certificates and scholarship opportunities are also available for the NSC challengers!

NSA - Some teachers opt to give students the **National Spanish Assessments** since it can be used as a tool for measuring where students are at one point in the year and where they end up at a second testing. **This option is **not** a contest!*

Prizes: There are several ways that NSE nationally acknowledges our students and teachers for making outstanding [achievements](#):

- ❖ **Certificates**
- ❖ **Medals**
- ❖ **NSE Shout-Out** (monthly recognition for outstanding teachers & students)
- ❖ **National Scholarships for Students** – scoring at or above the 75 th percentile
 - Senior Scholarships - \$500 - \$2,000 for graduating seniors
 - Junior Study Abroad Scholarships – full scholarship for a study / travel experience for students during the summer between their Junior and Senior years
 - Global Citizen Scholarships (8y-18y) – full scholarship to a summer immersion camp at the Concordia Language Villages (virtual & residential camps)!
- ❖ **Teacher Awards** -For teachers administering our exams, we offer the following awards:
 - Study Abroad Scholarship
 - Stipend to attend the AATSP’s Annual Conference

Cost: There are only two costs associated with proctoring the NSE’s suite of exams:

(1) Cost per Teacher: There is a \$75 cost to each teacher administering any of the exams offered by the NSE. *However, AATSP members do not have to pay the \$75 per teacher cost, as giving our Exams is a benefit of having an AATSP membership.*

(2) Cost per Student: Each Exam costs a national fee of \$5 during regular registration.