On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled “Developing an Online Foreign Language Placement Test: Sharing Experiences / Setting Your Own Goals”. The workshop had 14 attendees including three staff and language instructors from six different departments and three centers, servicing eight different languages (Chinese, English/IEP, French, German, Hindi/Urdu, Japanese, Kurdish, and Kyrgyz). The presentation was led by Maria Shardakova, Director of Language Assessment for the Center for Language Excellence. Others providing information from their own experiences included Troy Byler, Susanne Even, and Kelly Sax.

This workshop was the twenty-third of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

The workshop began with a brief introduction from each attendee and what they hoped to learn from the presentation.

The presenter discussed what to consider, defining the construct you are measuring, defining benchmark performance/knowledge for each level, and following the logic of sequential acquisition.

Placement (not proficiency) into the correct college courses is the sole purpose of this test (a diagnostic tool), especially for the student’s comfort and confidence level.

Troy Byler, Susanne Even, and Kelly Sax shared some of their experiences, including creating a proctored computer generated exam, working with developers, lengthy processes, examples, & cut-off ranges.

Participants were welcomed to share their experiences and concerns about the creation and use of placement tests.

The post-workshop survey evaluation included participant comments, such as:
“Many thanks for a nice workshop. I learned a lot.”
“The best part was hearing experiences from individual departments.”
“Interested in a proficiency testing workshop as well.”
“Interested in TA/AI training.”