

National Spanish or Portuguese Exam

Explanation of the 2020 National Spanish Exam and the 2020 Illinois Chicago Area Chapter 017 NSE Contest

One online exam makes students eligible for monetary prizes and gold medals! Click [here](#) to view the **2020 contest announcement**. View last year's winners: <https://chicagoaatp.org/events/nse-awards-ceremony/>. Click [here](#) for answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Your students take one online exam but are competing both nationally and locally. When your students complete the exam online, they receive a score out of 100 on each of the four sections, a perfect score being 400 total points. The Chicago Area Chapter looks at the top scores reported by National in the Chicago Area and awards monetary awards at an awards ceremony in May to 10th place in all categories. Schools are sent the list of Chicago area winners via email to one teacher at the school to share with colleagues. The Chicago area winners receive an invitation to the Awards Ceremony to claim their award.

Our chapter awards monetary prizes ranging from \$50 to \$100 to the top ten scorers in all categories. The number and amount of the awards are determined by the amount of money the chapter receives in registration money. After the Awards Ceremony, the names of the Chicago Area winners are posted on our website.

New this year our chapter awards gold medals to students scoring at or above the 95th percentile **nationally** (Premio de Oro). These medals are sent directly to the registered teachers of the winning students.

National recognition is determined by percentiles. The National Exam recognizes all students who score in the 50th percentile and above as Oro, Plata, Bronce, or Mención Honorífica and provides certificates online for teachers to print out and give to their students recognizing their achievement. Teachers receive this information directly from the National Office. The Chicago Area Contest uses the total score to determine the top scorers in the Chicago Area and not the percentile. In many cases the Local Chapter winners are also recognized as Oro in the

National contest. Not all students that receive “Oro” nationally, however, are Chicago Area Winners. Chicago Area winners are sometimes Plata or Bronze winners nationally. More information on recognition and scholarships available to students scoring well at the national level is available [here](#).

National Scholarships and Awards

To be eligible for Global Citizen Scholarships, Junior Travel Awards and Senior Scholarships, students must have scored at or above the 75th percentile. Information about these awards is available by visiting the [NSE website](#). Please encourage ELIGIBLE students to apply.

NSE FAQs

National Spanish Exam

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know how to place my students correctly?

Students are disqualified for either declaring the wrong level or category or not declaring a competition level or category. Generally, the level of the NSE should match the course title. Students may not take the same level of the NSE more than once. If a course is designated as AP or IB, then the student should take the next higher level from the one they took the previous year. For example, if a student took Spanish 4 as a junior and then AP as a senior, then the Level of the NSE should be 5. It is very important that you follow the guidelines as stated on the National website. <https://www.nationalspanishexam.org/index.php/exam-administration/competition-levels>

The issue of Outside Experience and Bilingualism can be tricky. It is recommended that you print out the explanations of the various levels and discuss the categories with your students prior to the exam.

<https://www.nationalspanishexam.org/index.php/exam-administration/exam-categories>

Are there any other reasons my students should take the exam?

Yes! Seniors who score in the 75th percentile nationally are eligible to apply online for monetary Senior scholarships through the National Spanish Exam website in late April. Also, travel abroad scholarships are available to qualifying juniors, and Global Citizen scholarships are available to qualifying 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students. Further, Study Abroad scholarships are available to qualifying teachers.

How can I be sure I receive the local contest results?

The Coordinator of the Chicago Area NSE sends out the list of Chicago Area Winners to only one teacher at each school via email. We ask that one teacher take on the responsibility to keep his or her colleagues informed. The results are also posted on the chapter website as soon as possible <https://chicagoatasp.org/events/nse-awards-ceremony/>

Providing an alternate email when registering for the test also helps because sometimes school's email filters reject the group email. Please be sure one teacher has contacted the Chicago Area coordinator, Beth Sanchez, at NSEChicago017@gmail.com, to be on the email list. Deciding with your colleagues how you will identify your school and all using that name will keep your scores together and help avoid errors in reporting results. For example, if you and your colleagues decide to identify your school as "George Washington High School," all students and colleagues must use the identical name. Please do not identify it as "Washington High." Please do not identify it as "George Washington." Please do not identify it as "George Washington High." Uniformity is very important. Please be clear, as well, if there is more than one campus. Click [here](#) for more information about administering the NSE.