



STAMP for American Sign Language (ASL)

The STAMP for American Sign Language (ASL) Test

The STAMP for ASL test, developed in partnership with Bridges Oregon, is a computer-adaptive test that assesses the Receptive and Expressive proficiency of second-language learners of ASL and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA). In the Receptive section, examinees must demonstrate their ability to comprehend ASL by answering 30 multiple-choice comprehension questions. In the Expressive section, examinees must demonstrate their ability to create ASL, including the use of ASL grammar, by video-recording their responses to three real-life, situational prompts. Both sections are scored on the STAMP proficiency scale, with Receptive scores ranging from Novice-Low to Advanced-High and Expressive scores from Novice-Low to Advanced-Mid. Questions in the Receptive section are automatically scored, whereas examinees' responses in the Expressive section are rated by certified Avant ASL raters. Figure 1 shows the multi-stage, computer-adaptive design employed in the Receptive section of STAMP for ASL:

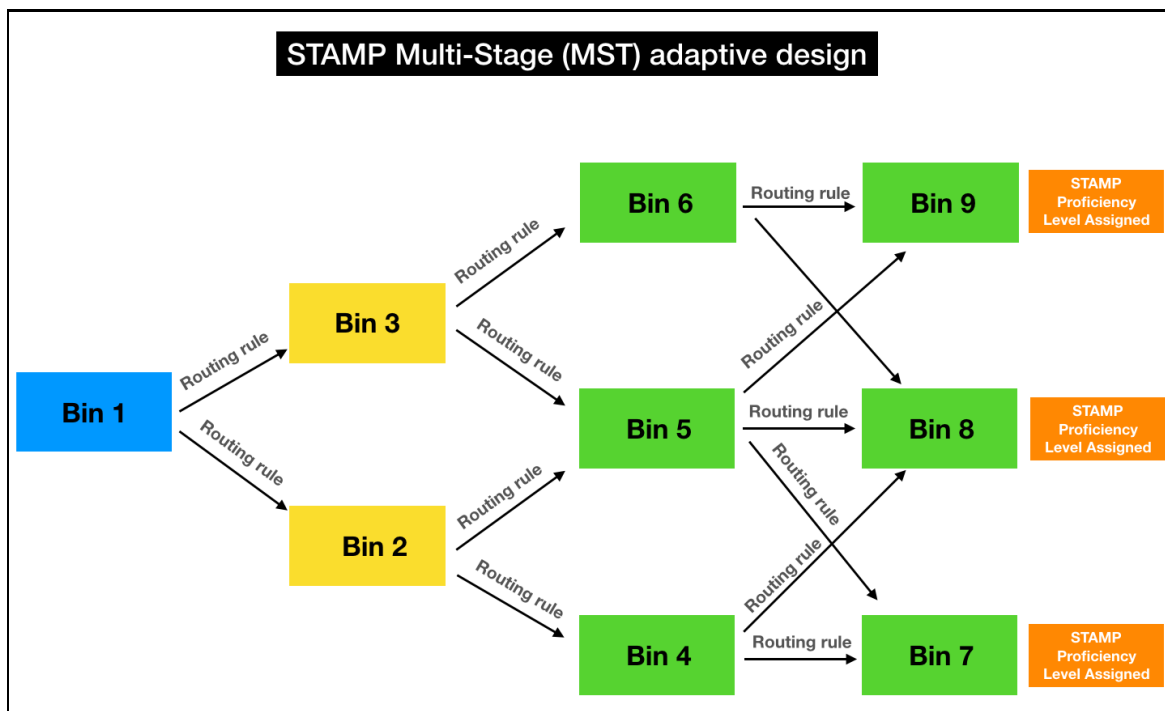


Figure 1. *The Multi-Stage, Computer-Adaptive STAMP for ASL Design.*



average score in the Receptive section of STAMP for ASL increases as examinees move up levels in formal ASL instruction:

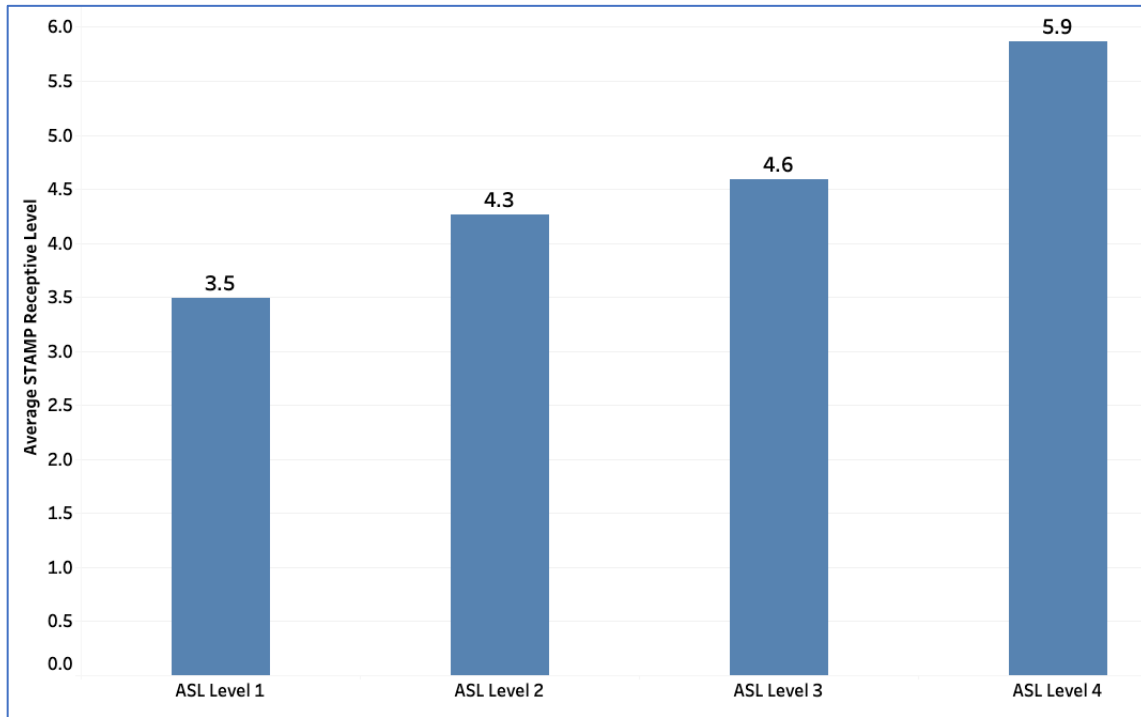


Figure 5. Average STAMP Receptive Level for Examinees at Different Levels of Formal ASL Instruction.

Relationship Between STAMP Expressive level and STAMP Receptive Proficiency

Figure 6 shows the average Receptive STAMP level for examinees who scored between STAMP 0 – STAMP 6 on the Expressive section of STAMP for ASL¹. As can be noted, as examinees’ scores in Expressive ASL increase, so does their average Receptive STAMP score, providing support for the idea that an increase in Expressive scores is indeed correlated with an increase in proficiency.

¹ Expressive levels 7-8 are not included because the number of examinees achieving these high levels of proficiency in ASL is not high enough for a reliable analysis at this time.

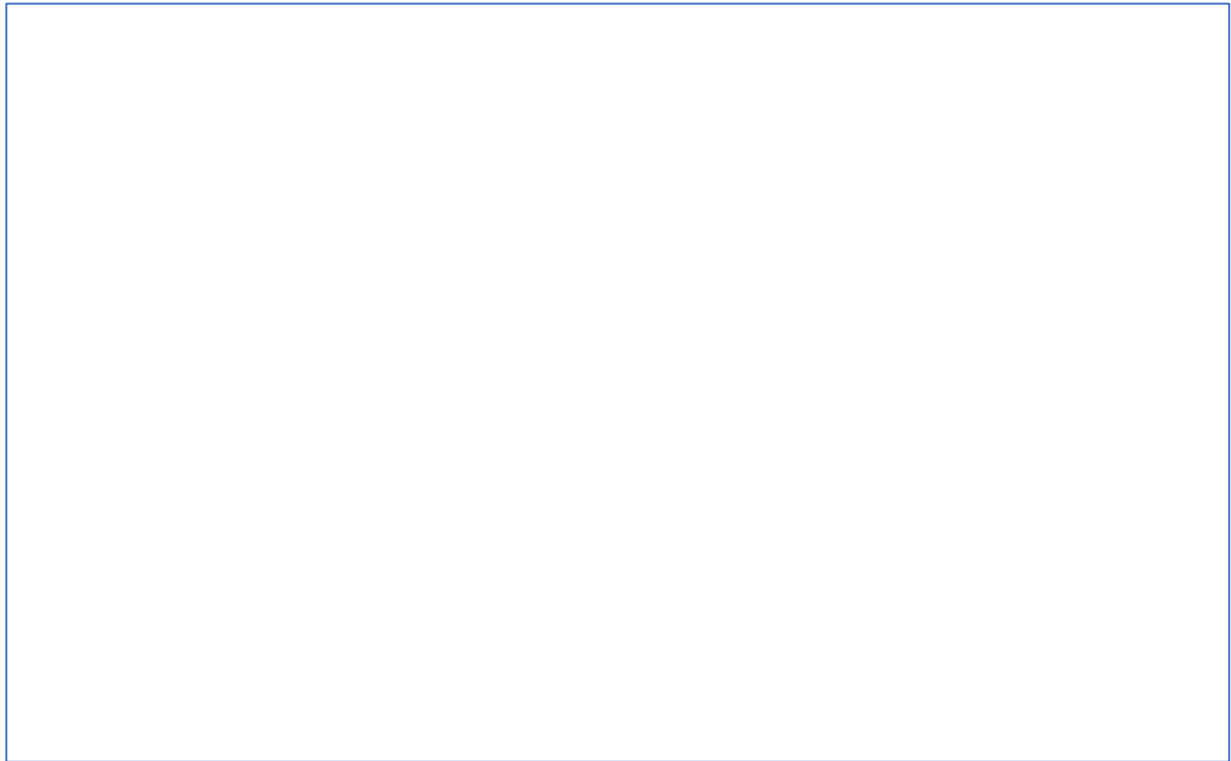


Figure 6. *Average STAMP Receptive Proficiency for Examinees at Different ASL Expressive Levels*

REFERENCES

- ACTFL. (2012). ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Retrieved October 10, 2019, from ACTFL:
https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf
- Cox, T. L. & Clifford, R. (2014). Empirical validation of listening proficiency guidelines. *Foreign Language Annals*, 47, 379–403.