

**Title:** Russian for Professionals, from Intermediate to Advanced: Challenges and Solutions  
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Traditionally, intermediate-high and advanced-low level students in Russian programs were the majors in Russian language and literature or heritage students interested in Russian language and culture. In recent years, Russian language programs see the increasing amount of students whose majors are other than Russian and who are willing to study Russian for their profession. Groups of intermediate-high and advanced students are small, yet comprise people majoring in politics, history, business, etc. and wishing to learn Russian to be able to use the language for professional purposes. These groups present challenges for a language teacher who either has to create separate programs and materials for each “group of interests,” sometimes for each student, or follow the generic program, focus on grammar and... fail expectations of students. Creating separate programs and materials for each category of students is very time- and labor-consuming and not always possible. Using published materials is problematic too, as most of the textbooks teaching professional language are too difficult for this level.

My presentation focuses on some of the possible solutions to small multi-goal classes which include:

- a) refocusing from individualized instruction to individualized learning;
- b) additional materials “parallel” to the main course (with examples of work with business majors);
- c) exercises and forms of work designed for individualized training of specific vocabulary;
- d) multimedia courses and forms of work with them. As an example of the latter, I present a multimedia course in history and the ways to incorporate this course in Russian language curriculum.

The paper also discusses pros and contras of the distant learning courses as a way to satisfy students’ needs.