

Department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC): Policy for Language Placement

Contacts:

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FYI:

WLC currently offers the following languages:

ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

We offer these majors: Anthropology, Classical Studies, French, German, Spanish

We offer these minors: Anthropology, Classical Studies, Chinese, French, German, Russian, Spanish, US Latino Studies, World Film Studies

We offer the Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP) major/minor option to students with primary majors in Engineering, Business, or CALS

(We house **International Studies** but advising for INT ST is undertaken by Elizabeth Zimmerman and Dan McCurley in 102 Catt Hall)

For 100 level language placement:

Students who have studied ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Latin, Russian, or Spanish for **TWO YEARS** in high school or two semesters at another university **MAY NOT** enroll in the first year of that language at ISU (101-102). **This may be waived on an individual basis for students with special circumstances (non-traditional student, language blocked scheduled in HS, etc.) by contacting Sandra Looft or Flor Romero.**

Students who have studied ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Latin, Russian, or Spanish for ONE YEAR in high school MAY enroll in the first year of that language at ISU, normally at the 102-level unless they have had additional experience in the language.

One year of HS generally equals one semester of ISU language.

Thus: 1 year of HS → place in 102

2 years of HS → place in 201

For Spanish only: Students who have completed TWO YEARS of Spanish in high school, but do not feel confident enrolling in Spanish 102 and do not wish to continue Spanish beyond the 102-level, may enroll in **Spanish 97**. See guidelines and information below under “Spanish 97”.

Students may enroll in a 101 level language course that they have not previously studied. No placement test required.

EARNING “T” CREDIT FROM WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

Students may get “T” credit for 101 and 102 (8 credits total) by taking a sequence of two 200+ level classes and passing them with a C- or better. T-credit can also be earned for 101 by taking 102 and passing with a C- or better. T-credit is only awarded for 100 level language classes.

PLACEMENT TEST GUIDELINES:

Most students will benefit from taking our free online placement test to help find the appropriate language class for their level at ISU. Our placement test can be found at:

<http://language.iastate.edu/students/>

See “Placement Exams” on left menu and follow prompts. Password is in the Instructions section on website.

General guideline of scores can be found below. We use the placement test along with a student’s background in the language and goals to determine class placement. For questions, please contact Sandra or Flor.

General Placement Score Interpretation:

French/Spanish raw scores:

0-300: 101 or 102 (depending on HS background up to 3 years and score)
(Students scoring 280+ can try 201)

300-400: 201-202 (depending on HS background)

400+: 301 (French and Spanish) or 303 (Spanish)

German:

Raw Scores

1-10: German 101-102 (depending on HS background)

10-14: 201-202 (usually 4 years of HS)

14/15 or higher: 301 or 304 (4+ years of HS or time in a German-speaking country); students in LCP disciplines should be placed in 304 if possible

Russian and Chinese: see levels indicated on exam as per above in French/Spanish (We have very few students taking these exams)

Additional Useful Info:

Spanish 97 Developmental Spanish

Target Audience: The Spanish 97 course is intended for students who have had up to two-years of high school world language study (and are thus ineligible for 101), but who are unprepared for 102. This group of students includes non-traditional/transfer students who have the prerequisite for 102, but who feel under-prepared and seek review before taking the 102 course. It also includes students who may not have studied the language for a significant period of time.

Course Format: Spanish 97 will be taught by a regular instructor three hours per week. The content of 97 will include a rapid review of grammar presented in 101 plus development of the key concepts that form the basis of study in 102. Although no academic credit is granted for Spanish 97, the course **does count as 3 credits toward full-time student status.**

Course Fee: Students will be charged a non-tuition based **developmental fee of \$325** for enrollment in Spanish 97.

Benefit to Students:

- Students may take a 97 course and meet the LAS (or HS) world language graduation requirement **if they receive a passing grade.** No credit earned.
- Students may enroll in 102 after completing 97 course with a passing grade. In this instance, the student has met the LAS (or HS) world language graduation requirement but can earn academic credit. If the student earns a C- or better in 102, the student will earn T-credit for 101 as well.

Spanish 297 Intensive Intermediate Spanish Bridge Course

- Students who scored 350-400 on Spanish placement test may take second Spanish test to determine if they can take the 297 bridge class or need Span 202 first.
- Students who have existing credit through Span 202 or are not ready to take Span 301/303 without a comprehensive grammar and composition review.\

Languages and Cultures for Professions Program (LCP):

A second major options for students with primary majors in Engineering, Business, or CALS. More info here: <http://language.iastate.edu/lcp/>