

PLACEMENT POLICY FOR WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

Placement Policy

Students who have studied a world language within four years immediately before admission to Penn State may enroll in that language for credit based on the number of Carnegie units prior to admission. (A Carnegie "unit" refers to one course level of a world language — French 1, French 2, French 3, etc. — equivalent to one year of study and accredited as such by the school.) If a period of four or more years has elapsed between a student's graduation from high school and admission to college, he/she may be eligible to enroll in level 1 of the language studied in high school. Students who have studied American Sign Language should refer to the information that can be found on the College of Health and Human Development website. (<https://hhd.psu.edu/csd/asl/>)

Units of Study Prior to Admission to Penn State	Register in Penn State Language Level
Fewer than two	Course Level 001 (4 cr.) ¹
Two or three	Course Level 002 (4 cr.) ²
Four or more	Course Level 003 (4 cr.) ³

¹ Course Level 101 for Latin placement
² Course Level 101 or 102 for Latin placement
³ Course Level 102 or 203 for Latin placement

Students may choose to take a lower-level course for credit with the approval of the appropriate language program at the student's campus of enrollment. Students who feel they are qualified for a more advanced course, or students seeking proficiency certification or credit by examination, if available, should contact the appropriate language department for details. For more information, see College of the Liberal Arts policies (<https://sgllc.la.psu.edu/language-portal/>).

Non-Course Work Knowledge of World Languages

Students who have acquired a knowledge of a world language by means other than course work (e.g., family background, travel or study in a foreign country, participation in noncredit summer language programs, etc.) may enroll in elementary and intermediate courses in that language only with permission of the course coordinator or department head. Once students have been placed in a skills course, they may not receive credit for a lower-level skills course.

Students whose native language is not English may not receive credit (through course work or examination) for elementary and intermediate courses in their native language. Enrollment in skills courses beyond intermediate level (e.g., conversation, composition) must be approved by the department head.

Accelerated and Intensive Courses

Students may choose to enroll in accelerated courses such as French 111 and 112, German 11 and 12, or in Penn State's Summer Intensive Language Institute courses. Because the objectives of these courses are somewhat different, students may schedule them for full credit even if they have studied the language previously.

Credit by examination (fee charged), when available, is offered to the extent allowed by the placement policy. For example, a student who has

two units of secondary school foreign language and chooses to begin study of that language at the third level instead of the second (Course Level 003, 4 cr.), may receive credits for the second level (Course Level 002, 4 cr.), but not for the first level (Course Level 001, 4 cr.). See the appropriate department for details.

Questions

Questions should be addressed to the course coordinator or department head of the particular language department concerned.