

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

1) Take Foreign Language Early

It is important for students to fulfill their foreign language requirement their freshman year, while their skills are still fresh. Placement scores cannot subsequently be lowered, and students may not take classes below their placement level, so postponing study may make it difficult for students to successfully complete the course. All students should complete the foreign language requirement by the end of their sophomore year at the latest. Please note that beginning level language classes in Chinese, Japanese, and Russian are not offered Spring semester, so those starting a new language are advised to do so in the fall. (Note that Russian 111 may not be offered in 2021-2022.)

2) Does the Placement exam fulfill the F requirement?

The purpose of the foreign language placement exam is to determine which level of foreign language study is best suited to a particular student's skill level. Placement exams are not designed to determine competency, and do not give credit nor satisfy the competency requirement. By completing a placement exam, students do not "test out" of the language requirement.

3) Who needs to take a placement exam?

All incoming students received a notice to complete a foreign language exam when they were issued an e-mail account at Wittenberg. New students were instructed to access Moodle and take a foreign language placement exam in the language they studied in high school. Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish placement exams are completed on-line and submitted electronically. Russian exams are printed out at home by the students, completed, and mailed to the University prior to their arrival on campus. Please note that, while students must test in the language studied in high school, they are not required to continue with that language study and are free to begin a new language. If a placement exam has been completed but the student wishes to begin a new language, the student will enroll in a new language at the 111 level.

4) Who does not need to take a placement exam?

Students who have not studied Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish at the high school level or higher do not need to take a placement exam. The registrar will assign them a placement of "Any 111," which means that they are eligible to take a beginning level class in any of our languages.

5) What if I don't take the placement exam?

Students who have studied Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish at the high school level or higher must take a placement exam in order to register for any language class. Those who have no such language background need do nothing. They are eligible to enroll in any language 111 class.

6) What if my placement is Spanish 101?

Spanish 101 is a two-credit bridge course designed for students with some knowledge of Spanish but who need to review some basic concepts before beginning Spanish 112.

7) Does placement guarantee a class?

Placement exams do not guarantee students a space in a given class; Spanish classes close quickly, so students who get closed out should consider taking a different language.

Students may satisfy the General Education Foreign Language "F" requirement in the following ways:

- Complete a foreign language 112, 150, or 200-level class taught in the language (depending on the language and placement) with a C- or higher; (Note that Spanish 150 will no longer be offered beginning 2020-2021.)
- Pass the Competency Exam in a foreign language. Only students with a 200-level placement or higher should consider this option;
- A score of 4 or a 5 on an AP exam in the language.
- For holders of the IB diploma, a score of 4 or above for Language B HL
- Transfer of 12 credits or more of language credit OR transfer of an approved upper-level course (200 or 300-level equivalent) from a regionally accredited institution

8) What if I studied a language not offered at Wittenberg?

A student who wishes to demonstrate competence in a language not taught at Wittenberg must consult with the Chair of the Languages Department and arrange to demonstrate competence by achieving a predetermined score on a standardized examination or through another means of evaluation acceptable to the Chair.

