

SATISFYING MY FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TEST

In addition to satisfying the foreign language entrance requirement, all students applying for a Bachelor of Arts degree from USF must demonstrate competency in a foreign language. To demonstrate this competency, students may take either two semesters of a beginning college-level foreign language, or one semester of a higher-level course and earn a letter grade of “C” (no “S” grades) or above in the appropriate level course, or demonstrate equivalent competency by passing an examination.

Strictly for students who studied a foreign language in high school, or who have postsecondary course(s) in foreign language, or who have experiential learning of a foreign language **may not enroll for credit in courses in that language without first taking a required placement examination administered by the Department of World Languages.** Should the placement examination indicate that remedial work is required (1120-1121), the student will be allowed to enroll with the understanding that the grade eventually earned will be either an “S” or “U.” Under no circumstances will a student who places above the first year level or who passes a higher-level course be allowed to register for or receive credit for a lower-level course in that specific language. Students to whom this regulation applies should inquire with the Department of World Languages about the placement examination.

The fee for the placement service is \$25.00 and can be paid for by debit or credit card. Students without a debit or credit card can request a payment invoice in CPR 419 which can be then be taken to the Cashier’s Office (ADM 131) and processed.

The benefits of taking the Foreign Language Placement test are listed below.

- 1.) For most BA majors, you may be able to **“test out”** of your degree’s language requirement.
“Testing Out” means you have satisfied your degree program’s language requirement by demonstrating a certain level of proficiency on the placement test. For most BA majors placement into 2200 (Intermediate level I) is sufficient to satisfy your language requirement. Majors requiring studies past the 3rd semester are listed in the table below. As a result you are not required to take any additional world language courses, although you are welcome to do so.
Please note: No credits are awarded for “testing out”. You will still have to meet your degree program’s minimum number of credits for graduation. Students interested in receiving **credit** by examination may take the CLEP test in Testing Services SVC 2060 (813-974-2741).
- 2.) Taking the placement test allows you to continue studying a language at the appropriate level.
- 3.) The placement test supports a better learning environment for all students by grouping students with similar proficiency levels together.

How do I take the language placement test?

The placement tests for French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish are offered in CPR 419. Please call the World Languages front desk (813-974-2548) for the testing schedule. Please arrive 15 minutes early to complete the required paperwork.

The placement interviews for Chinese, Modern Greek, Latin, and Portuguese are conducted in person. Contact our Academic Program Specialist *Patricia Garcia* (pgarcia@usf.edu, 813-974-2719) for information.

For people who are new to the study of a language, the sequence is: Beginning I (1120), Beginning II (1121), followed by Intermediate I (2200), then Intermediate II (2201).

FAQ's about Language Placement Testing

1. What is the cost of the placement test?

The fee for the service is \$25.00 and can be paid at the time you take the placement test in CPR 419. Any major credit/debit card is accepted.

2. If I want to study a new language, do I have to take the placement test?

No. If you have never studied a particular language, do not take the placement test for that language. You can register directly for Beginning I after obtaining a permit from the World Languages Office at 813-974-2548.

3. What if I think I've been placed into the wrong level course?

You should talk with the WLE advisor, and if necessary, the language coordinator. *You may not register for a higher or lower level course without approval from the WLE advisor / the coordinator for that language.*

4. When should I take the placement test?

Take the placement test well in advance of the beginning of the semester. You will need your results before you register for classes. If you did not take your placement test prior to the start of your freshman year, please make arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

Please note: As placement test results may take a few days, ensure you have completed the placement test well in advance of registration.

5. What if I took AP/IB exam in High School?

You do not need to take the placement test, depending on your AP/IP scores; you should enroll in the course equivalency indicated on your test results. Contact the WLE undergraduate advisor at LanguagesAdvise@usf.edu for information.

MAJORS REQUIRING FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY PAST 2ND SEMESTER	LEVEL REQUIRED
International Studies	3 rd semester
International Business	5 th semester
Honors College	See your advisor