

WSU World Languages Placement and Credit Guidelines

CHINESE, FRENCH, GERMAN, JAPANESE, SPANISH

PLACEMENT EXAM

Students with any prior knowledge of Chinese, French, German, or Spanish should take the Placement Exam (there is no exam for Japanese yet). Many students place into a higher class than they expected. The test assesses students' current language abilities to match them with the course most suitable for their level. Students receive a score and a course level recommendation (101/102/201/202/301). The language exams are:

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Online: <https://www.winona.edu/gswl/placement.asp>
- ✓ Quick: Usually 10 to 20 minutes

Common scenario:

Many students take a few years of Spanish in high school, but it's been a long time and they want a refresher. Tell them to register for SPAN 102 or 201. SPAN 101 courses are only for true beginners or those with very little prior experience. ***If in doubt, take the placement exam!***

IF A LANGUAGE CLASS IS FULL, ASK THE STUDENT TO GET ON THE WAIT LIST. Usually space opens up by the end of the first week of the semester.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OR ONLY 1 YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL: 101

2-3 YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL: 102

3-4 YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL: 201

3 AMAZING YEARS or 4+ YEARS: 202

4+ YEARS, AP or IB classes (NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS): 301

SPANISH NATIVE SPEAKERS/HERITAGE SPEAKERS or STUDENTS WHO WERE IN SPANISH IMMERSION: SPAN 310

Retroactive Credit

By earning a grade of "A" or "B" in one of WSU's language courses 102, 201, 202, or 301, students may obtain retroactive credit for the preceding courses. For example, a student who places into SPAN 201 and earns an "A" or "B" may buy the credits for SPAN 101 and SPAN 102. Qualifying students may apply for retroactive credit by contacting their instructor to initiate the online form and be billed \$50.00 per credit in order to receive a grade of "P" (pass) in the appropriate course(s). The World Languages faculty reserves the right to depart from these guidelines when warranted by exceptional circumstances.

To be eligible, *the student must have completed the original WSU course and have received an official grade.* The student must be fully matriculated with a minimum 2.00 GPA at WSU and be enrolled at the university during the semester in which the credits are requested.

*Not all K-12 language experiences are equal; students can always contact the **Global Studies and World Languages Department**: Minné 120 (507) 457-5500 [Http://www.winona.edu/gswl](http://www.winona.edu/gswl)

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