

## A &S LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The purpose of the foreign language requirement is to insure that students who receive degrees in the College of Arts & Sciences have had a rich experience in more than one language and familiarity with more than one culture. The language requirement may be fulfilled in 10 to 12 credit hours, depending on placement, or by demonstrating proficiency through testing, as described below.

Although students take language courses in various departments, the fulfillment of the requirement is certified ONLY by the student's college.

### LANGUAGES

The A&S language requirement may be fulfilled by courses in these languages:

Arabic, American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Greek, modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean (through the Consortium with Northern Kentucky University), Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili. The Celtic languages (Modern Irish, Scots Gaelic, and Welsh) are offered intermittently.

Students should consult the various department websites to verify that the appropriate level of study will be offered in the time period required.

### PLACEMENT: NO PRIOR LANGUAGE STUDY

Students who matriculate in the College of Arts and Sciences with only **one year or no** previous foreign language training, or who wish to commence study in a language in which they have had no former training, must complete both terms of Basic Language instruction or all four terms of Extended Basic Language instruction in a single foreign language. This requirement is fulfilled by the completion with a passing grade in the final course of either of these course sequences:

**Two-semester Sequence:** 5 credits each, 10 total of  
Basic Language 1001-1002

OR

**Four-semester Sequence:** 3 credits each, 12 total of  
Extended Basic Language 1011-1012-1013-1014

NB: Students must receive at least a C- in order to continue from one course to another in any language sequence.

## **PLACEMENT: TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE**

Students who wish to continue with study of a language in which they have had **two** years of high school or other training will be placed automatically into the second course in the Basic Language sequence (1002) by the Admissions Office. They fulfill the requirement with a passing grade in that course (total 5 credits). If scheduling does not permit the 5-credit course, the requirement can be met with Extended Basic Language 1013-1014 (total 6 credits). For placement in Latin, consult the Latin Language Coordinator.

NB: Automatic placements by the Admissions Office are subject to review, approval and reassignment by the appropriate Language Coordinators. Students may consult with Coordinators for a review of their placement.

## **TESTING OUT OF THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

Students with **extensive prior experience** in a language may fulfill the requirement with a sufficient score on the appropriate Language Placement Test (accessible through the Language Resource Center) in French, German or Spanish, and by certification from the appropriate Language Coordinator for all other languages. This certification is contingent upon performance in an oral interview as well as a written test. Students receive no credit by placing out of the language requirement through this certification.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS**

Students who have participated in the Advanced Placement Program in high school receive college credit, based on their scores, without further validation. The credit is allocated according to college guidelines. (<https://admissions.uc.edu/information/high-school/advanced-credit.html>) These students should see the Undergraduate Director for guidance in course selection.

## **WAIVER OF THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

Students who for reasons of a disability are not able to complete the language requirement may petition the College for a waiver of the requirement. In granting such a waiver, the College will normally require that a student complete an alternative course of study of a specific non-English-speaking culture.

Native speakers of languages NOT taught at UC may apply to the college of Arts & Sciences for a waiver. The requirement will be waived for students who have had schooling in the language through the equivalent of the eighth grade.

Heritage speakers who have learned a language at home but have received little or no formal instruction in that language may also apply to the college of Arts & Sciences for a waiver. The college will give the student a checklist to be completed by a native speaker on the UC Faculty who is willing to evaluate speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. The Faculty evaluator will complete the checklist and mail it to the Director of Language Instruction, Nuria López-Ortega (ML0377 or lopezonr@ucmail.uc.edu) for a recommendation. See next page for Checklist.

## A&S CHECKLIST for EVALUATING LANGUAGE FLUENCY of HERITAGE SPEAKERS

**Heritage speakers** are those who learned the language at home but received little or no formal instruction in that language.

**Language fluency** encompasses four areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing, ranging in that order from the simplest to the most complex linguistic tasks.

**Evaluation** of language fluency may be accomplished in several different ways, but in order to reduce the amount of time necessary to assess the skills of an individual speaker, the following checklist should allow a fair examination in about 20 minutes.

### Listening (10 minutes)

In a ten-minute conversation conducted exclusively in the target language on a general topic, the speaker was able to understand:

- \_\_\_\_\_ everything
- \_\_\_\_\_ most of the conversation
- \_\_\_\_\_ about half after repetitions in a simpler vocabulary

### Speaking

In the same ten-minute conversation, the speaker was able to communicate

- \_\_\_\_\_ on a fairly sophisticated level with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ on a standard level well within the expectations of ordinary conversation
- \_\_\_\_\_ poorly with awkward grammar and a simple vocabulary

### Reading (5 minutes)

The student provided a non-fiction text (newspaper or magazine) in the target language. The Evaluator selected a short passage and the reader was able, after five minutes of silently reading, to explain in the target language

- \_\_\_\_\_ an idea from the text in considerable detail
- \_\_\_\_\_ a clear understanding of the topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ a vague idea of the topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ no comprehension of the text

### Writing (5 minutes)

**PLEASE ATTACH THE COMPLETED ESSAY TO THIS FORM FOR SUBMISSION.**

In a five-minute essay written on the spot in the target language on a general topic, the writer was able to express

- \_\_\_\_\_ fairly sophisticated ideas with complex sentences and a rich vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ a general concept with ordinary grammar and a general vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ a simple idea with basic grammar and a simple vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ no ability to write in the target language

What language is being tested: \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ M number \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature, name and title)

The Evaluator should mail this form and completed essay to the Director of Language Instruction, Nuria López-Ortega (ML0377 or lopezonr@ucmail.uc.edu) who will make a recommendation to the College of Arts & Sciences regarding waiver of the A&S language requirement.