

MODERN LANGUAGES GENERAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT POLICY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...AND ANSWERS

1. WHICH COURSE DO STUDENTS HAVE TO TAKE TO MEET THE GEN ED REQUIREMENT?

For students beginning their college careers prior to the summer of 2004, the requirement is the first-semester elementary course, normally 101.

For students beginning their college careers in the summer of 2004 or after, the requirement is successful completion of any second-semester elementary language course, normally the 102 course in a language, or any higher-level course.

2. WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO DID NOT TAKE A LANGUAGE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

WKU will admit students who have not completed the pre-college curriculum, but they must make up this entrance deficiency by passing a 101 (first-semester elementary level) course in any foreign language within the first 24 credit hours of their WKU studies. These students must also complete a 102 course.

2. WHO CAN ENROLL IN THE 101 COURSES? WHO HAS TO BEGIN AT 102?

Students who earned two or more credits in middle and high school for a foreign language may not enroll in 101. These courses are for true beginners with no experience in the language.

Students who want to study a language other than the one they studied in middle or high school may enroll in the new language at the 101 level, but they still must complete the 102 course to meet the language requirement.

3. IF IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE A STUDENT LAST TOOK THE LANGUAGE, CAN THAT STUDENT ENROLL IN 101?

IF A STUDENT DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, CAN THAT STUDENT ENROLL IN 101?

IF A STUDENT TAKES THE PLACEMENT EXAM AND PLACES INTO 101, CAN THAT STUDENT ENROLL IN 101?

The 101 courses are intended for true beginners with no prior experience in the language, so the answer is no. The Department of Modern Languages has free tutoring to help students and the 102 courses include a brief review at the beginning of the semester. In addition, students can purchase the textbook and review prior to the beginning of the semester.

Students may also change to another language and enroll in that new language at the 101 level and then complete 102 in that language to meet the language requirement.

**4. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PLACEMENT EXAM?
HOW DO I TAKE THE PLACEMENT EXAM?
WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL THE PLACEMENT EXAM?**

Students with strong language skills or more than 2 credits for language study should take our free placement exam to determine whether they can place higher than 102. Students who “skip” into a course beyond the 102 level can earn 6 hours of verified credit upon successful completion of the course into which they place.

The placement exam is intended to help students discern how much they know, not how little. Students with 2 or more credits for middle and high school language study should not take the placement exam to “prove they need a 101 course” because students with two or more credits of study in a language are already prohibited from enrolling in the 101 course in that language.

The procedure for taking the placement exams for French, German, and Spanish are posted on the Modern Languages website at www.wku.edu/modernlanguages For exams in other languages, please contact the department at (270) 745-2401 or drop by room 251 in the Fine Arts Center.

5. HOW DO I GET CREDIT FOR AP OR CLEP?

Students who present appropriate AP or CLEP credit or who transfer college credits equivalent to 102 or higher also fulfill the general education requirement in that fashion. For more information, please see our web site www.wku.edu/modernlanguages

6. CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE CREDIT FOR SKIPPING 101?

Students who pass 102 without taking 101 can pay a fee to receive 3 hours of verified credit for 101. These credits will appear on the student's transcript and count toward graduation and the 101 course will count as elective hours toward graduation.

Date: _____

To Whom It May Concern:

_____ (800-_____) is a WKU student from
_____ at our university. English is her/his second language.
_____ is her/his first language.

The WKU University Senate approved the following policy on December 13, 2001:

The general education foreign language requirement will be waived for international students whose first language is not English, contingent upon successful completion of ENG 100 and 300 and either COMM 145 or 161 (i.e. 9 hours instead of 12 in Category A) and an additional 3 hours of coursework in General Education courses selected from any category. When submitting the degree program, such international students must attach a letter from the Office of International Programs verifying they are a non-native speaker of English.

Students receiving the foreign language waiver will list their additional selected general education course in the degree program line labeled "Foreign Language."

Please assist this student in the application of this policy to his/her degree requirements.

Sincerely,

Beth Murphy
Coordinator, International Services