Frequently Asked Questions about Foreign Language Requirements and the Placement Test for students in Arts and Sciences
https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/world-languages-and-cultures/placement-exam.html

Question 1: I am a student in Arts and Sciences. How can I fulfill my foreign language requirement?

• **Answer:** you may do so in one of the four ways listed below:
  1. Graduating from a high school where all instruction was conducted in a language other than English;
  2. Demonstrating proficiency in the language on the 2020 course level;
  3. Having completed four years of one language in high school (student must have completed the fourth full year, for example, Spanish IV, and received credit for those courses);
  4. Having completed one of the departmental options listed in the Student Handbook, found here: https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/student-resources.html

Foreign language information is found under Foreign Language Group II.

Question 2: Can I use the placement exam to demonstrate proficiency in a language as stated in option 2 above?

• **Answer:** No. If you are proficient in a language other than English as a heritage speaker, native speaker, or if you have prior language study and experience at the proper level, please meet with a faculty member to have that faculty member assess and validate that you meet or exceed proficiency at the 2020 level. The faculty member will send a brief memo to an advisor in the college to document the assessment. The college will put out an exception to note that the requirement has been met. Please call World Languages and Cultures at (419) 372-2667 to arrange for a meeting with a faculty member.

Question 3: I am proficient in a language other than English. Can I use the placement exam to earn college credit in a language?

• **Answer:** No. The placement is used solely for purposes of placing you in the language class that is appropriate to your level to ensure your success. For credit by exam, please see Question 4, below.

Question 4: I am proficient in a language other than English and I wish to receive college credit for my proficiency in this language. Can I do so?

• **Answer:** Yes, as long as you have not already begun study in that same language course at the 3000 level or above, you may choose the credit by exam option. For more information, please click here: https://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/academic-policies/credit-by-examination.html

To set up an appointment to take a credit by exam, please call World Languages & Cultures at (419) 372-2667.

Question 5: Do I have to take the placement test?

• **Answer:** If you have studied Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, or Russian and you wish to continue your language study or to complete your foreign language requirement, you must take the placement test unless you meet one of the exceptions listed below.

**Exception:** If you have completed three years of study in high school in French or in Spanish, you may complete your foreign language requirement by taking either French 2120 or Spanish 2120. With this option you do not need to take the placement exam.

**Exception:** If you have completed two years of study in high school in German or in Russian, you will be able to enroll in any of their qualified culture courses, in which case you do not need to take the placement exam.

Question 6: What languages does the placement test evaluate?

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• **Answer:** Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian.

**Question 7:** How long does the placement exam take?
• **Answer:** between 5 to 25 minutes, depending upon your proficiency.

**Question 8:** I have studied Arabic, ancient Greek, Japanese, or Latin in high school and wish to further my language study or to fulfill my foreign language requirement. Do I have to take the placement exam?
• **Answer:** No, there is no placement exam for these languages. You will be placed in them in accordance with your level of study—years in high school or level in college.

**Question 9:** I have studied Chinese or Italian in high school and wish to further my language study or to fulfill my foreign language requirement. Do I have to take the placement exam?
• **Answer:** Yes. The placement exam puts you in the course that is appropriate to your level to ensure your success.

**Question 10:** I wish to begin study of a language at the 1010 level. Do I have to take the placement exam?
• **Answer:** No. The 1010 level is designed for beginners with no previous language study.

**Question 11:** I have previously studied a second language, but it has been a while since I have taken a course. What class is it appropriate for me to take?
• **Answer:** if you have studied Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian, or Spanish, please take the placement exam, which will put you in the class that offers you the level most appropriate for your continued language success. For other languages, consult a faculty member. To set up an appointment please call World Languages and Cultures at (419) 372-2667.

**Question 12:** I am in a College other than Arts & Sciences. I need 2 semesters of language study for my degree. Do I have to take the placement exam?
• **Answer:** Yes. Getting yourself properly placed in the language course that is at the level of your abilities will give you the best chance at success in the course.

**Question 13:** I took the placement test and scored higher than I expected. I think I guessed well and got lucky. Can I continue my language study at a level lower than the one suggested by the placement exam?
• **Answer:** Yes, you may. Before enrolling in a lower level, please consider retaking the exam. If your second score is within 20 to 30 points of your first, it is likely that the placement exam is an accurate reflection of your language ability. You may also call World Languages and Cultures at (419) 372-2667 to speak with one of our language mentors.

**Question 14:** Can I have a friend take the exam for me?
• **Answer:** No. If you place out of the 2000 level you must talk to a faculty member who is at least bilingual and who will assess your language proficiency. If you are not as proficient as your score suggests, you will be required to retake the placement test. If a friend takes the placement test for you and you place in a level higher than your abilities, you will set yourself up for much frustration and failure because you will be in a class with others who are more proficient than you.