INFORMATION ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TESTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Who has to take the placement test?
   If you are planning on enrolling for the first time in a foreign language course and you have taken 2 years or more of that language in high school, you must take the placement test. If you have no previous courses in a language or you have less than 2 years of language study or you have had language study more than 5 years in the past, you may start at the 101 level. However, if you choose to take the placement test, you cannot start at the 101 level (except in possible cases with the Japanese and Russian tests).

2. Can a student who is transferring from another college or university take the placement test?
   If you are transferring foreign language credit from another university or institution, you may not take the placement test since placement in a foreign language course will depend upon the evaluation of transfer credit by the Office of Admissions. If you have transfer credit (whether from another institution or university, AP, IB, or in-state Dual Credit) you cannot take our test and should take the next-higher level in the language sequence if further language study is needed.

3. In what languages can I take the placement test?
   French, German, Russian, Spanish, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, Latin, and Japanese. Tests for other languages not listed here and that are taught at Purdue are administered by the professors or coordinators of those languages. Please make an appointment by emailing the professor or course coordinator, or calling 765-494-3828. Please see the contact information for each coordinator or professor listed below.

4. What kind of tests are used?
   All tests are administered by computer and are tests of grammar, listening, and reading comprehension. During STAR, tests are available on a walk-in basis in Stanley Coulter 231 between the hours of 10:30am and 3:30pm. The lab closes promptly at 4pm. If you are taking the Japanese or Russian test, you are asked to appear no later than 3:00pm and no other tests are given past 3:30pm. Please see our website for semester testing dates and times:

5. How long do the tests take?
   The Russian and Japanese tests take approximately one hour. Therefore, no Japanese or Russian tests are offered after 3pm during STAR testing or after 6pm during semester testing. (Students wishing to take these tests during the semester are asked to arrive promptly when doors open.) All other tests (Spanish, German, French, Latin, and Spanish for Heritage Speakers) take approximately 30 min. and are not given past 3:30pm during STAR testing nor after 6:30pm during semester testing.
6. How do I “test out” or how do I receive credit for those courses that I “place out of”?
   This is a placement test, not a credit test. Upon completion of the test, you will find out the level tested into and if you earned any credits. If you need to take more language study beyond the level tested into, please check with your advisor for specific details.

7. If I take the test and test into the 102 level, can I take this course at another institution and still receive credit for the 101 and 102 levels?
   To get credit for the 101 level, the 102 level tested into must be taken on the West Lafayette (WL) campus.

8. If I place into the 102 level, can I take the course P/NP to receive the 101 credit?
   No. You must take the course for a letter grade and successfully pass it in order to receive the 101 credits. A passing grade is defined as no lower than a D-.

9. What do I need to have with me to take the test?
   You need to have a Form 231 filled out and signed by your advisor. STAR students need their PUID number and a valid photo ID. Students taking the test during the semester also need a Form 231 filled out and signed by your advisor, the PUID number, and two forms of valid photo ID. This policy is also stated on the Language Placement Testing homepage: http://www.cla.purdue.edu/slc/main/news/Language_Placement_Testing.html

10. What can I study in preparation for the placement test?
    The placement tests are nationally standardized tests designed for all high school students regardless of the textbook or method of instruction used in high school. Although no one book can be recommended, a review of grammar and vocabulary may be useful. No sample tests are available.

11. What if I find the course “too easy” or if I feel that I know more than the test shows?
    It must be emphasized that the test is only an estimate of your language proficiency. Your placement in a particular course means that we are reasonably certain that you would pass the course. However, if you feel that your placement has not revealed your true proficiency, we urge you to consult your language coordinator during the first two weeks of class about being placed into a higher level course. A placement into a higher level is not guaranteed and is at the discretion of the language coordinator. No placement into a lower level than the one tested into is allowed.

12. How do I register for the course that I tested into?
    You will receive a yellow results sheet which is to be taken to your advisor and placed in your file. Only your advisor can enter an override for any level tested into or for the 101 level.

13. How often may I take the placement test?
    Only once per language.
14. **SLC Placement Exams and AP credit:** CEEB-AP exams are awarded in a different manner than placement test credits and students should refer to the Office of Admissions website and the AP Conversion document found there.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THOSE LANGUAGES NOT TESTED AT OUR LAB BUT TAUGHT AT PURDUE:**

For **CHINESE** testing, contact Prof. Wei Hong at hongwei@purdue.edu

For **ITALIAN** testing, contact Annalisa Mosca at mosca@purdue.edu

For **PORTUGUESE** testing, contact Daleth Assad at assadd@purdue.edu

For **ARABIC** testing, contact Prof. Ahmed Idrissi Alami at aidrissi@purdue.edu

For **HEBREW** testing, contact Alon Kantor at akantor@purdue.edu

For further information concerning the **Spanish for Heritage Speakers** test, please see the link above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT** Julie Harrell, SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, STANLEY COULTER HALL, ROOM 210 OR harrellj@purdue.edu, or 765-494-3877.

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