

AIS Language Requirement and Placement

Starting in the fall 2008 all entering students in the School of American and International Studies, including internal and external transfer students, will have to fulfill a language requirement. Please refer to the description below for information on placement and exemptions.

For students in the School of American and International Studies (AIS)

All undergraduate degree candidates in AIS are required to show proficiency in a language other than English at the "Intermediate Low level" as described by the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines](#).^{*} This minimum proficiency standard is only a stepping-stone to mastery. Therefore, we encourage students to continue coursework, immersion activities, and study abroad that will help them reach the ultimate goal of linguistic and cultural competency in a language other than English.

Fulfilling the requirement:

Satisfactory evidence of Intermediate Low proficiency can be demonstrated in the following ways and will constitute exemption from further coursework:

These options will give you credit:

- Successfully completing Intermediate I World Language course
- Completing equivalent coursework in an approved study abroad program
- Receiving transfer credit for equivalent coursework
- Passing a CLEP test at the intermediate low level or higher
- Passing the NYU Language Test (for those languages not offered through CLEP; cost is responsibility of student)
- Receiving a score of 4 on the High School Advanced Placement Test

These options will not provide credits, but will mean you have fulfilled the requirement:

- Passing the ACTFL OPI at the required level (Live and telephone interviews offered at cost through state and national testing centers)
- International High School Graduates whose native language is not English are exempt from the component and encouraged to study an additional language
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Graduates

How do I know what level language course to take?

AIS students may not place themselves into language classes. You must be tested if you wish to continue studying the same language you have studied.

Who does not need to be tested?

If you are a true beginner, that is, you've never studied the language before and it is not spoken in your home, you may enroll in the first introductory level of language instruction, Foundations I.

If you are a student transferring courses to Ramapo, you may continue to the next level of instruction. If five or more years have passed since your last course or you have doubts about your proficiency, you are required to take the CLEP exam or speak with a language professor.

The placement test:

The CLEP test will place you in the appropriate course Foundations I, II or Intermediate I, or higher if you wish to continue. Depending on your score, it may give you up to 16 college language credits. The test

will be administered prior to or during the first semester of student's enrollment. It may be scheduled through the testing office. Please see the testing office website for information on dates and times of testing, policies, cutoff scores, prices and study guides at the following site: www.ramapo.edu/academics/testing. You will receive results as soon as testing is completed. Your score will determine your placement. The CLEP tests French, German and Spanish. Students wishing to test in other languages may take the NYU test, which assesses a great variety of languages, for a list of them see: <http://www.scps.nyu.edu/areas-of-study/foreign-languages/continuing-education/proficiency.html>.

Students wishing to pursue a major in Spanish, a contract major in Italian or a minor in either, Spanish, Italian or French, are encouraged to take the most advanced level course appropriate for their level. Your skills will progress much more rapidly if the level of language in your class is challenging for you (but not totally beyond your comprehension). Additionally, advancing optimally will allow you to increase the number of courses you can take outside your major program. This is particularly vital for students interested in language teaching certification where education courses and student teaching are required.

For students not in the School of American and International Studies and continuing students

For placement in foreign language courses, see the general college policy.

* Summary of ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking and Writing: Intermediate Low speakers can maintain simple face-to-face conversation by asking and responding to simple questions in informal settings dealing with topics related primarily to one's self and immediate environment. In writing, they create statements and formulate simple questions by recombining familiar structures and vocabulary in order to meet elementary needs. These speakers and writers can be understood, with some repetition or additional effort, by speakers unaccustomed to non-native speakers.