

Foreign Language Placement Testing

School of Languages and Cultures

The School of Languages and Cultures offers placement testing in French, German, Spanish, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, Latin, and Russian through combined FLPT sessions. Students may also take placement exams in Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Portuguese, American Sign Language and Hebrew through placement exams that are handled separately from the FLPT.

Foreign language placement testing **determines both students' placement** into a language program's sequence of courses **and also establishes credit, or credit eligibility**, based on students' results.

Students' placement test results will determine placement with the first four semesters (101, 102, 201, 202) or beyond (301, Spanish Heritage 305, Latin 3XX-4XX). FLPT results can also establish credit, or credit eligibility, which is determined by each language and is dependent on students' placement scenario in the language. Please see the SLC Placement Credit document for further details by language.

Foreign Language 101 Placement

Most **foreign language 101 courses are designed for true beginners** and have a departmental permission restriction on registration. A student may not enroll in FL 101 if they:

1. have had two years or more of a foreign language in high school
2. if it has been less than five years since they last took the language

If students have no previous formal study of a language, advisors may grant the departmental permission override to enroll students in an FL 101 course. If it has been longer than five years since their last coursework in the language, or if students studied for less than two years, students are able to enroll in FL 101, or they may also choose to sit for the placement exam.

Students must start in the language sequence in the course into which they placed, so those who are eligible for the FLPT but do have previous experience should consider what is best for them. **Students may not move backwards in the sequence**, so if they take the FLPT and place higher than their actual level of proficiency, they will still need to start with the course into which they placed. Students with questions should contact the faculty or language coordinator of the respective language for more information.

Foreign Language Placement Exam Eligibility

If students are not eligible to enroll in FL 101, then they must go through the placement exam in the target language. Students are not eligible to sit for a language placement exam if:

1. they have scored 3 or higher on the Advance Placement (AP) language exam
2. they have scored at the High Level on the International Baccalaureate exam
3. they have Dual Credit in the language from an Indiana institution
4. they are a native speaker of the language to be tested

School of Languages and Cultures Foreign Language Placement Testing

Students that learned a language in high school who do not have any college level credit, or who have not taken the AP or IB exams are eligible to sit for the placement exam. **The placement exam may only be taken one time in any language, and students are encouraged to wait to take the placement test until they are ready to enroll in the language.** It is not recommended that students wait semesters or even years after their placement exam to finally enroll in the language.

Please refer to the SLC placement website for more details on native and heritage speakers of Spanish. Native speakers are not allowed to sit for the FLPT in their own language, and heritage Speakers of Spanish must take the Spanish for Heritage Speakers placement exam and may not sit for the standard Spanish placement exam.

FLPT Sessions

The School of Languages and Cultures offers **five placement testing sessions** throughout the academic year for French, German, Spanish, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, Latin, Russian and Japanese. For information regarding placement in other languages, please see the placement page on the School of Languages and Cultures' homepage.

August: (4 sessions) Wednesday through Friday of week before start of semester, and Monday, the first day of the Fall semester, 6 PM, SC 231.

November: (3 sessions) second week of November on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6 PM, SC 231.

January: (2 sessions) Monday and Tuesday during the first week of classes, 6 PM, SC 231.

April: (3 sessions) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the second week of April, 6 PM, SC 231

STAR: (4 weeks) Monday through Friday, second half of June, first half of July, 10:30 AM-3:30PM, SC 231

For various reasons, the **SLC is not able to accommodate requests for individual placement exams.** Students must come to one of the scheduled testing sessions. There is no formal registration process or wait list for the placement exam sessions, and no cost for the exam. **Students need a Form 231 signed by their advisor and their PUID.** Students may attend any testing session.

FLPT Exam Process

Students should arrive before the start of the testing session and will be screened before being admitted to the exam. Semester testing sessions begin at 6:00 PM. No Russian or Japanese tests are administered after 6:15. For all other FLPT languages, exams will not be administered after 6:40.

At the exam, the FLPT lab staff will collect students' signed Form 231 and briefly interview each student to ensure their eligibility to sit for their target language's exam. **Students should plan to spend between 25-45 minutes for most exams, while Russian and Japanese tend to take ca. 60 minutes.**

Students will receive their placement results and information regarding potential credits at the conclusion of the exam. Placement and credit results will be recorded on each students' results sheet,

School of Languages and Cultures
Foreign Language Placement Testing

which students are asked to return to their advisor. Advisors will receive FLPT results in daily results emails at the conclusion of each day of testing.

FLPT Results

FLPT results are reported automatically to the Registrar at the conclusion of each testing session.

Students do not always receive credit automatically as a result of their placement exam. Depending on the language and placement scenario, students can earn one of two types of credit:

- Credit by exam:** reported automatically to Registrar at conclusion of testing session, issued for placement exam results. **Students do not need to take further coursework** in the language to receive credit by exam.
- Departmental credit:** not automatic; **students must meet the criteria set by each language in order to obtain departmental credit.** Students' results sheet will indicate which course students need to complete in order to receive the departmental credit for placement test results. After completing the further coursework and once semester grades have posted, students should contact their advisor and corresponding SLC faculty to request the departmental credits.

Please refer to the School of Languages and Cultures' Placement Credit document for further details on credit by language and placement scenario.

Contact

For more information or questions language testing, placement scenarios and credit inquiries, please contact:

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Spanish		
Spanish for Heritage Speakers		
Latin		
Russian		
Japanese		
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