

Foreign Language Placement Exam — FAQs



What is the foreign language requirement at Benedictine?

The language requirement component of the core curriculum is proficiency through the second semester of a foreign language. The language requirement can be fulfilled through the placement exam, with AP credits, dual enrollment, or by taking courses at Benedictine. For students who have studied other languages at the college level, those courses will be evaluated for transfer. Benedictine College offers first-year French, Spanish, Latin, and Greek. Students may also take Italian through the Florence program.

Why does Benedictine require the language placement exam?

Benedictine College has a core two-semester foreign language requirement. We require the language placement exam in order to assure that you are placed at the appropriate course level.

Who needs to take the placement exam?

Students who have completed three or more years of a language in high school are required to take the language placement exam *before taking a course in the same language*. If you do not intend to continue studying the same language, the exam is optional. Students who received dual enrollment credit, AP credit, or transferred in college credit are not required to take the exam, but may take it if they want to continue studying the language and be assured of proper placement.

When is the language placement exam offered?

Placement exams are offered on both SOAR weekends and prior to the start of the fall and spring semesters. All dates are listed in the Academic Calendar. Exams are offered in Spanish, French, and Latin and take 20–60 minutes. Students receive their exam results immediately for French and Spanish. Latin results are usually available within a week.

How does placement work?

Any student who has taken three years of a language in high school must take the placement exam before enrolling in a course in the same language. If you place out of the course, your schedule will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the appropriate course level (e.g. SPAN-1020, 2010 or beyond).

What if I am placed into 1020 but am afraid it will be too difficult and want to take 1000?

This is not an option. Our placement guidelines are very carefully established. If you are placed into a second-semester level, you will be more than adequately prepared for succeeding in this course. If you enroll in 1000, you will be dropped from the course. If you are truly concerned that 1020 will be too difficult, the class (with instructor approval and space providing), but you may not take 1000 for a grade.

When should I take my foreign language courses?

We recommend completing your language requirement early in your college career. Be sure to consult with your academic advisor.

Who should I contact regarding questions about the foreign language placement exam?

Contact Dr. Julie Sellers for questions about the French and Spanish placement exams at jsellers@benedictine.edu and Dr. Edward Mulholland for questions about the Latin placement exam at emulholland@benedictine.edu.