

2-11-2009

Revision of the Foreign Language General Education Requirement 02/11/09

Curriculum Committee

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Recommended Citation

Curriculum Committee, "Revision of the Foreign Language General Education Requirement 02/11/09" (2009). *Curriculum Committee Reports*. 67.

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Curriculum Committee Proposal

Revision of the Foreign Language General Education Requirement

Current: The FL requirement is described in the current catalog as follows:

*II.B. Foreign Language (FL)-Two courses in a single language.***

***Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a second language at the level achieved at the completion of the first year of college language study. Students can demonstrate proficiency by: a) passing 1002-Beginning Language II or an equivalent college course; b) passing the appropriate placement test; c) passing an examination for credit, such as AP or CLEP; or d) proving that they have a native language other than English.*

Proposed: The Curriculum Committee unanimously supports the revised wording as follows:

II.B. Foreign Language-Proficiency in a single language other than English at the level equivalent to the first full year of college language study. This requirement can be met in any one of the following ways:

- Successfully completing a beginning language II course
- Achieving an appropriate score on a placement exam
- Passing a special examination, such as AP or CLEP, or
- For non-native speakers of English, successfully petitioning the Scholastic Committee for an exemption.

Placement tests are given by language disciplines to determine the level of proficiency of a student with prior coursework. Students who plan to complete courses in the same language that they studied in high school must take the placement examination and abide by the placement recommendation. If, after an initial exposure to the recommended course, the placement seems inappropriate, they may follow the recommendation of their language instructor as to the proper entry course.

Rationale:

The wording currently in the catalog is relatively brief in text. It refers to one year or two semesters in a single foreign language. A footnote at the bottom of the list of Gen Ed requirements gives more detail. It has been pointed out that the intention is not that students complete two courses, but that they complete a level of proficiency. The proposed new language clarifies and simplifies the statement of the various ways to complete the proficiency requirement. There is no significant change in content from the original wording. It simply brings the language from the footnote up into the text and makes clear that proficiency is the requirement rather than the completion of coursework. Proficiency can be established in any of the ways listed.