



Concordia World Language Core Requirement FAQs

We expect that everyone coming to Concordia College will have a college-level experience with a world language.

Exactly what is our language requirement?

One college-level course at the second semester level or higher. Any foreign language counts to fulfill this requirement. The course must be for college credit.

Do international students have to take the language requirement?

Yes. All students are required to take a **college-level foreign language course at the second semester level or higher**. International students whose first language is not English may take ELL 112 to fulfill the W requirement.

Who qualifies as an international student for questions of language courses?

International students are those that require non-immigrant visas to study at Concordia (e.g., an F1 student visa).

What if a student grew up speaking a second language at home?

Those students who have learned a second language in high school or at home are still required to take a college-level course. If they grew up speaking one of the languages we teach, they can take a placement test to determine the best class to take.

Is it possible to place out or test out of the language requirement?

No. Students are expected to take a college-level class.

If you have previous language experience in a language taught at Concordia, you are required to take the language placement test for French, German, and Spanish or meet with the instructor/department chair for Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, and Latin. That determines the level at which you would start but it does NOT satisfy the language requirement for you: you are still expected to take a college-level language course. You may place higher than a first-year course and then retroactive credit may apply (see below for more information).

If there are questions about previous experiences with a language, please consult the department chair or the Registrar's Office. Students coming to Concordia with two years or more of Latin, should consult the chair of Greek and Roman Studies.

How does retroactive credit work?

Students who begin their language study at Concordia at the second-semester level or higher and receive a grade of C- or higher in that course will receive retroactive credit for the previous course in the sequence. This option is not available to students who bring in transfer or AP credit.

What about AP credit?

A score of 3 on the AP exam = 111, 4 = 112, 5 = 211 in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. There are no 200-level courses in Latin so those students receive the following: a score of 3 = 111, a score of 4 or 5 = 112. Students must submit the appropriate AP score reports to the Registrar's Office during their first year.

What if a student did PSEO or College in the Schools?

If a student brings in transfer credit for a college class taken in high school, that class will fulfill the W requirement if it was at the second-semester or higher of a foreign language.

Will study abroad fulfill the language requirement?

That depends on the program. If a student takes a college-level course at the second-semester level or higher of any foreign language, the credit transferred in will fulfill the language requirement. One semester alone of a language does not fulfill the requirement.

If I went to CLV, do I still have to fulfill the language requirement?

Yes. CLV is an excellent preparation for college-level language study, but it does not fulfill the requirement.

Does American Sign Language (ASL) fulfill the language requirement?

ASL courses may fulfill the language requirement provided it is a second semester or higher-level course.

Why is it Greek 212 and Hebrew 212 instead of 112?

Historically, the 200-level was chosen for Greek and Hebrew due to their complexity. In classics, students often take Latin before Greek. However, recently, students have taken these without prior background knowledge and done fine.