

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

ADVISING GUIDE 2013-2014

SECOND LANGUAGE LITERACY REQUIREMENT

To receive a degree from Alma College, students must complete a minimum of one semester of college-level second language study. However, second language skills and knowledge of other cultures are becoming ever more critical for U.S. economic and national security. If you are interested in majors or professions where knowledge of second languages is increasingly valuable (Business and Economics, Political Science and Foreign Service, Communication, Education, History, English), we encourage you to seriously consider the benefits of beginning or continuing language study at Alma College.

DEFAULT PLACEMENT:

1-2.5 years high school language study	111 level
3+ years high school language study (These students are not allowed into the 111-112 sequence of that same language)	221 level

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE SECOND LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TEST?

Take the appropriate exam if:

- 1) You have studied 2-2.5 years of a second language, you feel pretty confident about your language ability and wish to see if you place higher than the 111 level (first semester).
- 2) You have studied a second language for 3 or more years in high school and wish to see if you place higher than the 221 level (third semester).

Do not take a language placement exam if:

1. You have never studied a foreign language; you will begin your study of a second language at the 111 level (first semester).
2. You studied a second language in high school for any length of time, but wish to begin study of a *different* language.

Placement tests predict the level at which you can function successfully in Alma's second language classrooms. Your score and placement will be made available to you and to Alma College's Modern Language Department. There is currently no placement exam for Chinese. Students with previous study of Chinese should contact Dr. Liu (liu@alma.edu).

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING POINTERS (CONT. ON BACK):

POINTERS:

1. We wish to place you as accurately as possible. For this reason, do not consult language texts, classroom notes, or dictionaries while taking the test. Doing so may inflate your score.
2. Take the test ONCE. The Modern Language Department will only accept your first test score.
3. If you believe you are wrongly placed, you may share your concerns about your placement with a member of the Modern Language faculty before official registration in the fall. **Additionally, if during the first two weeks of class you seem to have placed into an inappropriate level, your professor will work with you to correct your placement.**
4. When you log-in to the exam, READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. Failure to do so may lower your score (for example, DO NOT use the back space button!).
5. To take Second Language Placement Test, go to the following URL):

<http://webcape.byuhtsrc.org/?acct=alma>

Password: one1

**MODERN LANGUAGES
SCHEDULING AND
RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF COURSES**

FALL	WINTER
111	112
221	222
300 level: Consult Modern Language faculty	300 level: Consult Modern Language faculty

Notes:

1. At this time, Spanish is the only second language program that typically offers a trailer section of SPN 111 in **winter** semester.
2. The 111-112 sequence counts for the minor but *does not* count towards the major in FRN, GRM, or SPN. Students who plan to major but who begin with 111-112 are advised to speak immediately with a member of the Department.
3. The 221-222 sequence is not required but may count towards a second language major (some students may place at a higher level).
4. **Teaching Major and Minor:** Students who plan to include second language as an area of concentration for **Teacher Certification** are advised to speak immediately with a member of the Modern Language Department AND with the Department of Education.