**Proposal for the new World Languages Requirement March 2018**

In 2014, four members of the United States Senate and four members of the United States House of Representatives requested that the American Academy of Arts and Sciences examine the role of language learning in the economy and the fulfilment of all Americans, and that they propose actions to ensure excellence in all languages as well as international education and research. Two key findings of the study (*America’s languages: Investing in language education for the 21st century*, viii: 2017) are that the ability to understand, speak, read, and write in world languages, in addition to English, is critical to success in business, research, and international relations in the twenty-first century and that the United States lags behind most nations of the world, including European nations and China, in the percentage of its citizens who have some knowledge of a second language.

Knowledge of a language other than one’s own is a fundamental characteristic of an educated citizen in today's global world. This knowledge allows engagement in mutually shared communication with people from other cultures, while at the same time refining understanding of one’s own language and culture. By developing interactive skills in a foreign language and enhancing cultural literacy, students in the liberal arts come to understand the limits of their own language, to expand their view of the world, and to free themselves from misconceptions about other nations, societies, and cultures.

**The World Languages Requirement**

The World Languages Requirement for all students in the College of Arts and Sciences is proficiency through the third level (numbered 1103) of a language other than English.  New students (first-year students and transfer students alike) who have not taken world language course work in high school or post-high-school may choose any of the languages offered at OSU, beginning with course number 1101 and completing through 1103. We offer over 35 languages, most of which are not offered in high schools and at OSU have majors and/or minors:

* [American Sign Language](http://www.asl.osu.edu/), from the American Sign Language Program.
* [Arabic](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.
* Cantonese, from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
* [Chinese](http://deall.osu.edu/), from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
* [Czech](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.
* [French](http://frit.osu.edu/), from the Department of French and Italian.
* [German](http://germanic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.
* [Greek](http://classics.osu.edu/), from the Department of Classics.
* [Hebrew](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Hindi](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Italian](http://frit.osu.edu/), from the Department of French and Italian.
* [Japanese](http://deall.osu.edu/), from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
* [Korean](http://deall.osu.edu/), from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
* [Latin](http://classics.osu.edu/), from the Department of Classics.
* [Persian](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Polish](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.
* [Portuguese](http://sppo.osu.edu/), from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
* [Quechua](http://sppo.osu.edu/), from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
* [Romanian](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.
* [Russian](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.
* [Somali](http://aaas.osu.edu/), from the Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures.
* [Spanish](http://sppo.osu.edu/), from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
* [Swahili](http://aaas.osu.edu/), from the Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures.
* [Swedish](http://germanic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.
* [Tibetan](http://deall.osu.edu/), from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
* [Turkish](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Urdu](http://nelc.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.
* [Uzbek](http://slavic.osu.edu/), from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

New incoming students are free to take any foreign language that they choose. However, students who have taken two or more years of a world language in high school but do not have Advanced Placement (AP), College Credit Plus (CCP), or transfer (K) credit for such a language will be required to take a placement test during their orientation program; the results of that placement test will determine in which course they need to begin in if they choose to take that language to fulfill the language requirement. Some students will place into 1101, some will place into a review course for 1101 and 1102; some will place into 1102; some will place into 1103; and still others will place beyond 1103.  A student who places beyond 1103 via the placement testing will have satisfied the World Languages Requirement. Likewise, a student who has AP, CCP, or K credit for 1103 will have fulfilled the requirement.  Students who do not place beyond 1103 and do not have AP, CCP, or K credit for 1103 will be encouraged to take the language class into which they placed during their first or second semester on campus to avoid language attrition. Students who are unable to take that language course during their first year at OSU will be required to retake the placement test before beginning language coursework.

We offer computerized placement testing for French, German, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Swahili and Arabic. With the new Digital Flagship program, all freshman will be able to take the placement tests on their iPads. Shelly Nutter of the Center of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (CLLC) is meeting with Cory Tressler in March to begin discussions about placing an icon link on the iPads that will take students to the computerized placement tests. The registrar’s office tech department (via Michael Stumpf) has stated that they will be able to generate reports for the CLLC listing students who did NOT take a world language course within 12 months of taking a placement test. The departments where the other languages reside do placement testing either by paper exam or interview or a combination of both. Students in the languages that do not have a computerized placement test will take the test in their department and the department will send the test results to the registrar’s office for placement on the student’s transcript. If the placement test is on the student’s transcript, we will still be notified if a student did not take that language within 12 months of the placement test.

Heritage learners, or students who have been exposed to a language other than English in a home or community environment, may have background in their heritage language as well as the language they studied in high school. Since courses have already been developed and continue to be developed specifically for Heritage learners, these students are encouraged to take a placement test in their heritage language in addition to the language studied in high school so that they can choose which language they wish to pursue to satisfy their World Languages Requirement.

Native speakers, defined as students who have completed high school in a language other than English, are exempted from the World Languages Requirement. Students in “tagged degrees” in the arts (Bachelor of Art Education, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Science in Design) that do not have a world languages requirement under the current General Education Requirements are exempted.

We propose that The World Languages Requirement reside in the Foundations of the new General Education program.

We propose that assessment of the World Languages Requirement remain with the Arts and Sciences Assessment Panel. The expected learning outcomes, as well as the assessment plan for all World Languages GE courses, already exist and will remain unaltered unless departments wish to change or update them.

**Approval:**

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