

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/20/12
Revision of Foreign Language Requirement for 2012
due to discontinuance of Regents

Explanation:

New York State is discontinuing the Regents exams in foreign language as of the end of this year. Our General Education foreign language requirement has used the Regents exam score as a measure of proficiency since 2000, from the inception of the foreign language requirement as a General Education requirement. We have revised the text of the foreign language requirement in recognition of this discontinuance in a way that allows the standards that have been in place for non-Regents schools to apply to New York State students who are no longer able to take the Regents exam. We would like this revised language to be in place for students entering in the 2012-2013 academic year who may or may not have been able to take the Regents exam.

Proposed changes to Bulletin copy:

Foreign Language skills are ensured by requiring that students pass either a third-semester college-level course in one foreign language or a second-semester course in two foreign languages, or satisfactorily complete some other significant activity that requires second-level foreign language proficiency as a prerequisite, such as study abroad in a non-English environment or an internship serving people who can communicate only in a language other than English. Students may fulfill the foreign language requirement prior to enrolling in college either by completing four or more units of one high school foreign language with a course grade in the fourth unit of 85 or better, or three units each of two high school languages with course grades in each third unit of 85 or better, by passing the AP examination (or its equivalent) with a score of 3 or better, or by demonstrating equivalent proficiency. Please see the General Education website, <http://www.binghamton.edu/general-education/>, for more information about the foreign language requirement.

Exceptions:

- The Foreign Language requirement is waived for students in the Watson School engineering programs.
- The Foreign Language requirement for students in the Decker School of Nursing and the Watson School computer science program is fulfilled by one college course in foreign language at any level. This requirement may also be fulfilled in high school by demonstrating a level of proficiency equivalent to [passing the corresponding Regents foreign language examination with a score of 85 or better \(or, for students who did not take the Regents examination, completing three or more units of high school foreign language with a course grade in the third unit of 85 or better\)](#).
- The Foreign Language requirement for transfer students in any school is fulfilled by one college course in foreign language at any level. This requirement may also be fulfilled in high school by demonstrating a level of proficiency equivalent to [passing the corresponding Regents foreign language examination with a score of 85 or better \(or, for students who did not take the Regents examination, completing three or more units of high school foreign language with a course grade in the third unit of 85 or better\)](#).

Note: Students who have completed a fourth-level high school language with a passing grade or third-level high school language with a [Regents score of 85 or better \(or, for students who did not take the Regents examination, a course grade of 85 or better\)](#) are considered to have completed two semesters of a college-level language and can fulfill the requirement by completing either the third semester college-level course of that language or the second semester college level course of a second foreign language.