

General Education Foreign Language Requirement - Policies on Proficiency Testing

For All Students

Students may request to be proficiency tested in languages they did not only study in high school. Following are the approved procedures for proficiency testing:

Languages offered at Binghamton University

If you would like to demonstrate proficiency through testing in a language that is taught at Binghamton University, please contact the appropriate department to make arrangements for proficiency testing. If the language department determines that you are proficient, please ask the department to complete the form on page 3 and return it to your school advising office. Proficiency testing is offered in the following languages:

Language	Type of test offered
Arabic	Testing offered by the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies. Department also accepts Brigham Young University's Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service (http://flats.byu.edu/). See department for more information.
Chinese	Testing offered by Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies; see department for more information.
German	Testing offered by the Department of German and Russian Studies; see department for more information.
French	Testing offered by the Department of Romance Languages; see department for more information.
Hebrew	Testing offered by the Department of Judaic Studies; see department for more information.
Italian	Testing offered by the Department of Romance Languages; see department for more information.
Japanese	Testing offered by Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies; see department for more information.
Korean	Testing offered by Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies; see department for more information.
Russian	Testing offered by the Department of German and Russian Studies; see department for more information.
Spanish	Testing offered by the Department of Romance Languages; see department for more information.
Turkish	Testing offered by the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies; see department for more information.

Languages not offered at Binghamton University

Requests for determination of proficiency in languages not taught at Binghamton University are considered by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. If you would like to demonstrate proficiency through testing in a language that is not taught at Binghamton University, it is your responsibility to arrange for testing. Testing must be completed by a faculty or staff member or advanced graduate student at a college or university; the evaluator must hold at least a master's degree. The test must evaluate reading, writing, and speaking through the third semester college level. You must provide documentation from the evaluator which includes a copy of the test, a letter from the evaluator assessing your level of proficiency, and the evaluator's credentials (including an explanation of his/her expertise in the language being tested, if the evaluator does not teach that language at a college level). Please forward your request and accompanying documentation to Liz Abate, Coordinator of General Education, in the Provost's Office, x72146 or labate@binghamton.edu.

For Non-Native English Speakers Only

Non-native English speakers may fulfill the General Education foreign language requirement by the following alternate means:

If you are...	How to request a waiver
<p><u>Category 1:</u> A student from a non-English speaking country where all school instruction was given in a language other than English and who can present documentation that you came to the United States after the age of 12.</p>	<p>Take the appropriate documentation to your school advising office.</p>
<p><u>Category 2:</u> A student with ESL courses on your college transcript.</p>	<p>Take the appropriate documentation to your school advising office.</p>
<p><u>Category 3:</u> A student whose native language is not English and who can demonstrate proficiency at the third level (first semester intermediate) or higher in a language other than English.</p>	<p>Request a waiver from the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Your request must include documentation of your proficiency. Please forward your request and accompanying documentation to Liz Abate, Coordinator of General Education, in the Provost's Office, x72146 or labate@binghamton.edu. Examples of acceptable documentation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you attended school in a non-English speaking country where all instruction was given in a language other than English, but you do not fall into Category 1 above, please provide copies of your school transcript(s) along with a cover letter, in English, from a school official explaining the courses you took.• If you would like to demonstrate proficiency through testing in a language that is taught at Binghamton University, please contact the appropriate department to make arrangements for proficiency testing. (See above)• If you would like to demonstrate proficiency through testing in a language that is not taught at Binghamton University, it is <u>your</u> responsibility to arrange for testing. Testing must be completed by a faculty or staff member or advanced graduate student at a college or university; the evaluator must hold at least a master's degree. The test must evaluate reading, writing, and speaking through the third semester college level. You must provide documentation from the evaluator which includes a copy of the test, a letter from the evaluator assessing your level of proficiency, and the evaluator's credentials (including an explanation of his/her expertise in the language being tested, if the evaluator does not teach that language at a college level).

Verification of Foreign Language Proficiency by Binghamton University Language Department

Please note: Forms should be sent directly by the Binghamton University department to the student's school advising office.

Student name (please print) : _____ BNumber: _____

School in which student is enrolled (check one): _____ Harpur College _____ CCPA _____ Decker _____ SOM _____ Watson

Based on examination, I certify that the above student is proficient at the following level:

- first-semester level (FL1) – Foreign Language requirement for Decker students, Watson Computer Science students, or any transfer students with a catalog year of 2012 or earlier
- second-semester level (FL2) – Foreign Language requirement for transfer students with a catalog year of 2013 or later in CCPA, Harpur or SOM
- third-semester level (FL3) – Foreign Language requirement for CCPA, Harpur or SOM students who entered BU as freshmen

in _____ (name of language; please print).

Name of evaluator (please print) : _____ Department: _____

Signature of evaluator: _____ Date: _____