Criteria for Fulfilling the CAS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement

(Effective April 2014)

1. To satisfy the Foreign Language Graduation Requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences students are required to demonstrate proficiency in all four language skills, i.e. listening, speaking, writing and reading at a novice-mid level (e.g., SPAN 102) for European languages (such as French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish) or at a novice-low level for Character-Based languages (such as, Chinese, Japanese, Russian) according to ACTFL standards.

To demonstrate the required proficiency, students may submit proof of a variety of possible foreign language experiences to the academic advisor who will then notify the graduations area to input the exception.

At present, the basic CAS graduation requirement, which directly reflects the Washington State Board of Education college admissions requirements (revised January 2013) based on the Washington Higher Education Committee guidelines, is:

Two years of study at the High School level of the same Foreign Language. (Transcript required. This includes ASL or NAL.)

OR

Two college semesters (or two quarters) study of the same foreign language at the community college or university level. (Transcript required)

*Note: A FL course taken in middle school may satisfy one year of the requirement if the second year is completed in high school. If only one year is completed in high school (grades 9-12), a WSU student must complete an additional semester or transfer an additional college-level quarter or semester in the same foreign language at the 102 level.*

The College of Arts and Sciences has determined that Foreign Language Proficiency not based on HS or college instruction can also be demonstrated by submitting documentation that proves one of the following:

* Residence abroad in a foreign language speaking country for at least two consecutive years,during the last five years. (Will need to submit documentation.)
* Study abroad in a foreign language country educational institution (secondary or tertiary) for at least a year. (Transcript required)
* Heritage speakers who have taken at least 1 year of the language in HS, and who speak the language more or less fluently at home. (Transcript plus letter from instructor or school official attesting to their heritage status required.)
* Passing the Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) test with a minimum score of 2 or more in all three sections for European languages, or a minimum score of 1 in all sections for Character-based languages.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Non-accredited intensive language training will be considered on a case by case basis.

International students who have completed formal instruction in their primary language as well as formal instruction in English as a Second Language in their secondary education have met the intent of the foreign language requirement. Records indicating the successful completion of both languages are required to document the foreign language requirement.

2. To “Petition to Substitute” the CAS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement with an approved culture-related course, students will be required to do one of the following:

* Submit a letter and include documentation from an accredited professional of a learning disability and/or medical condition that prevents student from succeeding at foreign-language acquisition.
* Submit a letter that includes a statement from the student’s foreign-language course instructor whereby he/she certifies that the student has made a demonstrated effort to complete the language course but is unable to complete it successfully.
* Submit a letter and documentation describing significant challenges in past classroom experiences (at the high school or college level) in foreign language learning resulting in failure in the course.

Approval of petition at any stage is not guaranteed but, for those that are, students may proceed to substitute one or two foreign language culture courses in lieu of language courses, as follows:

* Take TWO courses from Category A, OR
* Take ONE course each from Category A and from Category B, OR
* Transfer TWO equivalent courses from an accredited college.

CATEGORY A: FOR L 101, 110, 120, 130, 410

CATEGORY B: HIST 331, 335; PHIL 314, 315; ASIA/ CHIN 111, 121, 131, 320; FREN 110, 120, 420, 430; GER 110; RUS 321; SPAN 110, 111, 120, 121, 420

All courses in both categories are taught in English. The list of courses will be reviewed and updated periodically by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures. Any approved substitution is understood to be in addition to other college or university requirements.

3. The Petition Process:

* See advisor to determine if extenuating circumstances exist that would justify substitution of approved cultural classes in lieu of a foreign language class. Be prepared to submit documentation of good faith efforts to fulfill requirement, or other supporting materials.\*
* Obtain petition form from advisor, follow instructions, have advisor and chair sign and make recommendation.
* Forward petition to the office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences though the office of General Studies, 2421. Address inquiries to Anna Chow at 509-335-4106 or email at ychow@wsu.edu.
* Notification letters will be issued to student and advisor. Advisor will update student academic records via the graduations area.

\*Expedited Petition Process: Some students who need to complete the CAS foreign language requirement have particular circumstances that can qualify them to use an expedited petition form.  This form is to be used in instances where the student has previously attempted high school and/or college foreign language courses and is over 25 years old. The steps are essentially the same as outlined above, but less paperwork is involved.

Expedited form to “Petition to Substitute”   
the CAS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement with an approved culture-related course

**Instructions:** Some students who need to complete the CAS foreign language requirement have extenuating circumstances and can qualify to take approved cultural courses to substitute and fulfill the requirement. The expedited form is to be used in instances where the student has previously attempted high school and/or college foreign language courses and is over 25 years old. Please list preferred courses to be used as substitutions (substitutions are identified in the CAS Foreign Language guidelines, “Criteria for Fulfilling the CAS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement), and indicate any previously taken courses. Students who do not meet these two criteria, or are requesting to waive the requirement, should continue to use the original petition form. No additional documentation needs to be attached to the expedited petition. For questions, please contact Anna Chow, CAS Director of Advising, at (509) 335-4106, [ychow@wsu.edu](mailto:twhitacre@wsu.edu). Forward completed petitions via email, or send to M/S 2421.

NAME: EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE:

WSU ID #: MAJOR:

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE:

I am petitioning to substitute the following culture course(s) in order to fulfill the CAS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement (include institution where taken if non-WSU):

1.

2.

I am 25 years of age or older: Yes (initial here)

My previous attempts to fulfill this requirement include the following (please list all previous courses including institutions and grade/withdrawal, etc. information and any other relevant information):

Student Signature Date

Recommend approval   
Academic Advisor Signature Date Recommend denial

Advisor name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_E-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recommend approval   
Department Signature Date Recommend denial

Recommend approval   
CAS Dean Signature Date Recommend denial

1. *The Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) World Languages Program are collaborating on a series of “Washington World Language Assessment Days,” by offering the STAMP test on specific dates/ places, to support high school, and/or higher education students who may not have access to it in their school districts, colleges, or universities. The cost is $30 per language assessed (paid by check or credit card to WAFLT), and the languages assessed are Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified or Traditional Characters). For more information on testing centers and dates, please go to* [*https://sites.google.com/site/worldlanguageswashington/assessment/washington-world-language-assessment-days*](https://sites.google.com/site/worldlanguageswashington/assessment/washington-world-language-assessment-days) *<*[*https://sites.google.com/site/worldlanguageswashington/assessment/washington-world-language-assessment-days*](https://sites.google.com/site/worldlanguageswashington/assessment/washington-world-language-assessment-days)*>  or contact Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki, World Languages Program Supervisor, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction,* [*michele.aoki@k12.wa.us*](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\amrodriguez\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\DHLDJY88\michele.aoki@k12.wa.us)*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)