

Criteria for Fulfilling the College of Arts and Sciences
Foreign Language Graduation Requirement
(Effective January 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 American sign language or Native American languages)

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 at the 102 level in the same foreign language.

The College of Arts and Sciences has determined that Foreign Language Proficiency not based on high school 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 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 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*
 - *Students interested in taking the STAMP test should work directly with Avant to take the “4S” test in their chosen language:*
<https://avantassessment.com/stamp>
 - *Avant will make scores available in 7 – 10 business days.*
 - *Students should reach out to our Testing Coordinator, Laurie Heustis (heustis@wsu.edu), to receive their test score.*

- *If students have earned the minimum score noted above, their academic advisor will enter the FL milestone in MyWSU to satisfy the CAS FL requirement.*

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 the instructor certifies that the student has made a best-faith effort to complete the language course but is unable to complete it successfully.
- Submit a letter and documentation describing unsuccessful past classroom experiences (at the high school or secondary education level) in foreign language learning.

Other extenuating circumstances that prevent students from completing courses in a foreign language, such as for those who completed some foreign language courses some time ago, or those returning to higher education after a significant period in the workplace and who have demonstrated good faith efforts to fulfill the requirement, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation should be submitted, as appropriate. Advisors will be required to sign a recommendation approving or denying these petitions.

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 from below.

ANTH 307; ANTH/FOR L 350; ANTH/WGSS 316; ANTH 320/AIS 320/CES 377; ANTH 327/AIS 327/CES 378
ART 301

ASIA/CHIN 111, 121, 131, 320

ASIA/HIST 373

FOR L 101, 110, 120, 130, 410

FREN 110, 120, 410, 420, 430

GER 110; RUS 321

HIST 230, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 306, 308, 331, 332, 334, 335, 370, 377

PHIL 314, 315

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 Director of the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race.

Any approved substitution is understood to be in addition to other college or university requirements, so will not double count for other general academic requirements. At the time the approved petition is

sent to Graduations, a two-part exception needs to be requested. One to allow the course for the FL requirement and another to exclude the course from counting towards the UCORE requirement.

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 sign, and make recommendation.
- Forward petition to the office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences through the CUE Advising Center, 4555. Address inquiries to Chioma Heim at 509-335-3670 or email at chioma.a.heim@wsu.edu.
- Notification letters will be issued to the student and advisor. Advisor will update student academic records via the graduations area.