

Most Common Questions from Students to Advisors about Languages at DU

Answered questions:

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22. Can I take additional language courses for elective credits?

Find answers for these and other questions on our
DU LANGUAGE RESOURCES KNOWLEDGE BASE



<https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

1. Which language to take?

Learning a language, no matter which, gives you an invaluable leading edge and, at DU, you can never go wrong when choosing among the options we offer. You may choose strategically, considering how your future career and life are connected to a specific geographical area, or you may choose practically by choosing a language you already started learning in the past or which you grew up hearing in the background, and you may also choose out of love, choosing a language spoken in cultures you admire or used by your favorite authors. Availability may be a determining factor as classes fill up.

Any language you choose will be beneficial to you, personally and professionally. Please, visit the CWLC, LL&C and SLLCS to learn about all the languages we offer at DU. A great resource for Language questions is DU's Language Resources Knowledge Base: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

2. What level to start at?

If you haven't had previous experience learning the language you have chosen for your studies at DU, you should definitively start at the 1001 level. For those who have had previous studies or practice with their chosen language, the Placement Test gives an accurate evaluation of someone's language level and a recommendation of which class to start. For Spanish Heritage students please connect with professor Lina.Reznicek-Parrado@du.edu.

For more information about FOLA, placement testing and advisor list, please visit <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>. Another great resource for Language questions is DU's Language Resources Knowledge Base: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

3. How do I access the placement tests?

Please, visit: <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing> for detailed information about Placement testing.

4. What level did I place into?

Please, visit the CWLC web page, "Language Testing", for course assignment based on your testing score: <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>. For those languages without a placement chart posted on the site, when your results are in you will receive an email from the program coordinator who will let you know where you placed. If you have forgotten or can't find your score, contact CWLC (cwlc@du.edu) and they can provide it to you.

5. Can I or how do I re-take a placement test

Yes, you can. For the French, Spanish, German, and Russian tests, the software is set to give you access to the test up to 5 times during a 7-day period. After the 7 day period you will need to request special access by the language coordinator at CWLC Center for World Languages and Cultures at DU (<https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc>). For all other languages, you may need to request access to the test again from the language coordinator at CWLC.

Please visit <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing> to find the link to the test of the language you are interested in. For any other questions regarding taking the test again, please contact CWLC Center for World Languages and Cultures at DU (<https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc>)

6. How do I know what course I should start with?

If you haven't had previous experience learning the language you have chosen for your studies at DU, you should definitively start at the 1001 level. For those who have had previous studies or practice with their chosen language, the Placement Test gives an accurate evaluation of someone's language level and a recommendation of which class to start. For Spanish Heritage students, please connect with professor Lina.Reznicek-Parrado@du.edu.

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7. What classes should I take?

To talk about your language path at DU, please connect with one of our language advisors <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>. Remember that language study provides opportunities beyond fulfilling the FOLA requirement (Major and minor programs, Study Abroad, etc.). Some career paths require planning and additional coursework beyond FOLA. An advisor can help with this planning. For FOLA, placement testing and advisor list, please visit <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>. Another great resource for Language questions is DU's Language Resources Knowledge Base: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

8. Can ASL be taken as their foreign language?

Not as a foreign language. If you are interested in learning ASL, you may enroll in the Community Course offered by the CWLC - Center for World Languages and Cultures at DU (<https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc>)

9. Which classes should I take to complete the foreign language sequence?

For the FOLA sequence and other FOLA questions, please visit: <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>

10. What if I don't feel comfortable starting at the level into which I placed?

We believe the Placement Test gives an accurate evaluation of someone's language level. Together with the placement chart, which aligns to each course and program expectations, it determines the recommended class for you to make progress. If you feel the results of your placement test were not satisfactory, you can always re-take the test to try and get a higher score. If you feel you tested above your abilities, we want to encourage you to give it a try and if after a few weeks, you feel you are not in a course adapted to your needs and proficiency level, reach out to your instructor who will advise you.

11. What do I do if the course I need for my sequence is full/not offered in the next quarter?

If a course is full, you may join the waitlist and contact the instructor if needed. Seats over the enrollment cap are unlikely to be opened. If a course is not offered in the next quarter, please feel free to reach out to the appropriate language advisor (<https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>) to see when the course will be offered next.

12. Do I have to take a language? Why?

Yes, with minimal exceptions. At DU we believe that cultivating proficiency in a foreign language not only provides students with the linguistic skills and cultural competencies that are increasingly in demand in an interconnected and globalizing workforce, but it also exposes students to new ways of thinking and learning, thereby sharpening cognitive and critical thinking abilities.

For more information about FOLA watch the short video on <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing> and visit: <http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/degreesanddegreeerequisites/>

13. Why do I have to take a whole year of language?

Depending on the entry level of your chosen language, your Foreign Language learning experience (FOLA) at DU can be shorter or longer than a year. At DU we believe that cultivating proficiency in a foreign language not only provides students with the linguistic skills and cultural competencies that are increasingly in demand in an interconnected and globalizing workforce, but it also exposes students to new ways of thinking and learning, thereby sharpening cognitive and critical thinking abilities.

For more information about FOLA watch the short video on <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing> and visit: <http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/degreesanddegreeerequisites/>

14. Do I have to do my language in year 1?

Well, it depends. You choose the pace and timeline for your language learning experience at DU but depending on your path, for example if you plan to study abroad, sometimes it is imperative that you start as early as possible. Talk to your advisor early on about your path and plan accordingly. Contact the CWLC, LL&C and the SLLCS to learn which classes are taught when.

15. Language placement for those who didn't do in beginning

Placement tests can be taken at any point in your university career. However, due to scheduling and availability, we strongly recommend that you take it as early as possible. To ensure first year students to get in the course they would like in the fall, it is strongly recommended to take the test before July 1. For

more information about FOLA, placement testing and advisor list, please visit <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>. Another great resource for Language questions is DU's Language Resources Knowledge Base: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

16. How does language study set up study abroad options? How can I connect my language requirement to study abroad?

FOLA and Study Abroad have different requirements. Also, different Study Abroad programs have different requirements for language study. Some require one year, many require two full years of university language study, and in those cases, enrolling in the 1001 level in the Fall quarter of your freshman year is imperative. If a student is planning on study abroad, they should know early on what the requirements are and plan accordingly <https://www.du.edu/abroad/>.

17. Can I go abroad if I push my language requirement to senior year?

Technically yes but you won't be eligible to participate in any program that has a university language requirement. For Study Abroad requirements, please visit the Office of International Education: <https://www.du.edu/abroad/>

18. In what should I major?

DU offers majors in French and Francophone Studies, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. Having a language major, no matter in which language or if it is in combination to another degree, gives you an invaluable leading edge. Cultural proficiency and the ability to communicate in a foreign language are increasingly desired in today's globalized world. Any language you major in will not only give you the ability to speak another language, but it will also give you the skills to understand and value diverse cultures.

You may choose a language strategically, considering how your future career and life are connected to a specific geographical area, or you may be practical, choosing a language you already started learning in the past or which you were exposed to when growing up, and you may also choose out of love, choosing a language spoken in cultures you admire or used by your favorite authors. Any language you choose will be beneficial for you personally and professionally. Please, visit LL&C and SLLCS to learn about all the language majors we offer at DU.

19. How to declare a major?

It is quite simple. Please visit DU Language Resources knowledge Base for answers to this question: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com/a/solutions/articles/66000047680> (SLLCS) or <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com/a/solutions/articles/66000061358> (LL&C)

20. How are language requirements different for BM and BA degrees?

Bachelor of Music (BM) majors may choose between eight credits in one foreign language or eight credits in Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World (SI:NP). If they choose foreign language, they have studied before, they must take the placement exam. If they choose a new foreign language, they must start at the 1001 class.

For most Degree Programs, DU requires students to take a foreign language to fulfill common curriculum requirements. Depending on your major or degree program, you may have additional requirements or exemptions.

Check with your major or other academic advisor to ensure that you understand your specific situation. For more information about FOLA, placement testing and advisor list, please visit <https://liberalarts.du.edu/cwlc/language-testing>. Another great resource for Language questions is DU's Language Resources Knowledge Base: <https://dulanguage.freshdesk.com>

21. Do all degree programs have a language requirement?

Students are exempt from the language requirement in the following degree programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSCpE)
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE)
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)
- Bachelor of Music (BM) majors may choose between eight credits in one foreign language or eight credits in Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World (SI:NP). If they choose foreign language, they must take the placement exam.

In general, always consult with an advisor regarding Common Curriculum planning for courses at the University and abroad. Certain programs have slightly different requirements in the Common Curriculum and because AP and IB courses or transfer courses from other universities and colleges may change the distribution of the requirements for individual students. Please visit: <http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/degreesanddegree requirements/>

22. Can I take additional language courses for elective credits?

Yes. If you have doubts about how these fit in your career path, consult with your advisor or the Office of the Registrar (<https://www.du.edu/registrar/programs/index.html>)

Thank you for all you do!
With much appreciation:

CWLC – Center for World Languages and Cultures (1000 level, Placement, FOLA)
LL&C – Languages, Literatures and Cultures (2000+ level languages – except Spanish)
SLLCS – Spanish Language, Literary and Cultural Studies (2000+ Spanish, Quechua)