

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: New Students for August 2019**

**FROM: Freshman Advising Office**

**DATE: May 2019**

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This mailing provides you with necessary information about the four Christ at the Core: Core Competencies at Wheaton. While testing out of these areas will not grant you course credit, it will allow you the opportunity to take more elective courses. Details of these tests are provided below. You should plan to complete the Core Competency requirements by the end of your sophomore year; however, you have until the end of your junior year to complete the Modern & Classical Language requirement.

### How to Pass the Four Core Competencies

#### 1. Modern & Classical Language (0-12 hours)

The Christ at the Core Modern & Classical Language requirement is met by demonstrating linguistic proficiency in either a modern or classical language. This can be achieved by one of the following means:

1. **Language Study:** Students may take and pass an intermediate level 201 course with a C- or above in a modern or classical language at Wheaton or an upper division 300-level course with a C- or above at Wheaton to satisfy the requirement.

- Unless beginning a new language at the 101 level, all undergraduate students who anticipate completing competency via language study **MUST** take a placement test and follow the recommendation of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages (MCL) in order to enroll in a modern or classical language course. This includes students with dual-enrollment language credit.
- For modern languages (CHIN, FREN, SPAN, and GERM), placement tests may be taken online. This test **MUST** be taken by July 1<sup>st</sup> if you plan to enroll in a language course for the Fall term. Register online at: <https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/programs/modern-and-classical-languages/language-placement-testing/>.
- For classical languages (GREK, HEBR, LATN), course placement will be determined by a written placement test offered at the beginning of each academic semester. Register for placement test online at: <https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/programs/modern-and-classical-languages/language-placement-testing/>.
- 100-level language courses serve as academic preparation for intermediate-level 201 courses and may not be taken pass/fail, nor as an audit unless the Language Competency Requirement has already been completed.

2. **Transfer Credit:** Students may transfer one intermediate-level (or upper division) modern or classical language semester course (passed with a C- or above) from a four-year accredited college or university or two intermediate-level semester courses (both of which must have been completed and passed with a C- or above) from a two-year college to satisfy the requirement. Courses taken abroad may also be considered on a case-by-case basis with prior approval by the MCL Department. Online modern language courses are not accepted.

### 3. Test Score:

Version 12.4	Modern Languages	
*Language Test Score	Course Credit Received	Competency Requirement Met?
AP = 3	4 hours (201)	yes
AP = 4,5	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
IB (HL) = 4,5	4 hours (201)	yes
IB (HL) = 6,7	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
SAT Subject Test = 580-639	4 hours (201)	yes
SAT Subject Test = 640 or above	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
LTI = Intermediate-Mid	4 hours (201)	yes
LTI = Intermediate-High	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
IL State Seal of Biliteracy	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes

Version 12.4	Latin	
*Language Test Score	Course Credit Received	Competency Requirement Met?
AP = 3	4 hours (102)	no
AP = 4,5	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
IB (HL) = 4	4 hours (102)	no
IB (HL) = 5,6,7	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
SAT Subject Test = 580-639	4 hours (102)	no
SAT Subject Test = 640 or above	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes
IL State Seal of Biliteracy	8 hours (201 + upper-division course)	yes

- Students who are attempting to fulfill the language competency requirement via an LTI OPI or OPIc test (for modern languages) or by departmental competency exam (for classical languages) must do so before the end of the first year after matriculation at Wheaton. The test may be taken only once to satisfy the requirement.
- The Language Competency Requirement must be completed by the end of the junior year.
- Four hours from an intermediate-level dual enrollment course will be accepted if validated by an ACTFL OP or OPIc rating of “Intermediate-Mid” via LTI testing proctored by the Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages.

#### **Exemptions from the Core Competency Language Requirement**

- International students (non-native speakers of English) who have fulfilled the English proficiency requirements for admission to Wheaton. (See MCL Dept. upon arrival for validation form)
- Students who have completed four years of high school coursework (oral and written) in a language other than English (transcript validation required).

## 2. **Communication** (0-4 hours)

Did you have a well-taught speech class in high school? If so, you may be able to pass the oral competency exam and waive your general education requirement in oral communication. The Communication Department schedules a testing session for oral proficiency during the third or fourth week of each semester.

To pass this competency requirement, students must show skill in inventing, organizing, and delivering a public speech. You will prepare and deliver an eight-minute original persuasive speech that will be judged against typical standards for students emerging from the general education class in public speaking, COMM 101. There is a non-refundable fee of \$20 for this exam. If you pass this test, you are excused from the oral competency general education requirement. If you do not, you should enroll in COMM 101 or COMM 252. Students who intend to major or minor in Communication should register for COMM 201 and should not take the competency exam.

See the Communication Department webpage for specific requirements of the competency exam. (<http://www.wheaton.edu/Academics/Programs/Communication/Welcome/Speech-Competency>)

**All students are expected to complete this competency requirement by the end of their sophomore year.** If you plan to take the competency exam to meet the requirement, then we recommend you wait until your second or third semester.

## 3. **Writing** (0-4 hours)

First-Year Writing (ENGW 103/104) equips students to express themselves as writers in their work throughout the Wheaton College academic curriculum and beyond. The course is designed to prepare students to write effectively in a variety of contexts and to improve student learning and performance in many other areas of their undergraduate education. Since the course introduces students to ideas and practices that are central to a liberal arts education, students should fulfill this requirement during the freshman year. Students are also encouraged to take additional writing courses beyond the general education requirement. Successful completion of the requirement is a pre-requisite for enrollment in any upper-division writing course.

### **Meeting the Writing Requirement**

You may satisfy the writing requirement by taking ENGW 103 (4 hours) and earning a grade of C or higher.  
OR

You may satisfy the writing requirement by taking ENGW 104 (2 hours) and earning a grade of C or higher IF:

- You have scored a 3 on the LANGUAGE/Composition Advance Placement exam.
- You have received a 10, 11, or 12 subject-level score on the ACT Writing test.
- Your ELA score (an average of your English, Reading, and Writing scores) is 32 or higher on an ACT exam taken on or after September 1, 2015 when this alternative scoring method was in effect in place of the 2-12 scoring method.
- You have scored a 10, 11, or 12 on an SAT Essay Exam taken before March 2016.
- You have scored a minimum of 6 on each category (reading, analysis, and writing) of the SAT Essay Exam taken on or after March 1, 2016.

### **Options to Meet the Requirement with Advanced Placement (AP) Testing Credit**

- If you have scored a 4 or 5 on the LANGUAGE/Composition Advanced Placement exam, you earn 4 semester hours of writing credit and have completed the writing requirement.
- If you have scored a 3 on the LANGUAGE/Composition Advanced Placement exam, you earn 2 semester hours of writing credit. You may complete the writing requirement by taking ENGW 104 (2 hours) or passing the Writing Competency Exam (see below).

### **Option to Waive the Requirement without Academic Credit**

The Writing Competency Exam is given each semester (on a date to be announced through email) and is open only to freshmen and transfer students. Students have one opportunity to take the exam in the fall or spring of their first year at Wheaton. The cost of the exam is \$30. If students do not score well enough on the exam to waive the requirement, they will be placed in ENGW 103 or ENGW 104 based on their earned score. Students who do not take the exam during their first year at Wheaton **MUST** take either ENGW 103 or ENGW 104, based on eligibility requirements listed above. No advanced standing credit will be awarded to students taking ENGW 104.

**4. Wellness (0-2 hours)**

The Department of Applied Health Science provides foundational content, faith based perspectives, and behavioral training in human health to all undergraduate students. Most students take advantage of this guidance by enrolling in AHS 101 during the Fall or Spring of their freshman year.

**Meeting requirement by Competency Test:**

Students who have a strong background in Health Science and have developed healthy lifestyle habits may seek to meet this requirement by successfully completing two tasks. The first task is a written exam covering eight major health topics. Those topics include pathology, cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, mobility/flexibility, nutrition, weight management, body image, and emotional health. Students who successfully pass the competency exam will receive guidelines for completing the second task, which is the behavioral or “applied” portion of this requirement. Three health behaviors (physical activity, nutrition, and sleep), strongly associated with human flourishing will be measured and assessed during this assignment. Students who pass both the academic and applied tasks will not receive academic credit for this Core Competency, however they will not be required to complete AHS 101.

NOTE: Active Intercollegiate Student Athletes and ROTC Cadets will need to complete only the written test portion of the competency exam because of the organized and staff-led physical activity associated with these programs.

**Detailed Information about the four competency areas can be found on our website:**

**<http://www.wheaton.edu/Registrar/>**

**First-Year Student Advising link on the left of the Registrar’s website**