

Modern Foreign Language Requirement - FAQs

Q: I had two (or three) years of language in High School, but I'm worried that I don't remember enough. Will I be able to succeed in an Intermediate level course?

A: Yes, you will be okay!

- Students overestimate the difficulty of Intermediate-level language classes. You can do the work and be successful.
- The Modern Language faculty have reasonable expectations about what students remember from their high-school language courses.
- Our placement policy takes students' concerns into account.
- According to research, learners passively retain more language than they are able to produce actively. You remember more from your previous classes than you think you do.

Q: Is there an alternative to starting out at the level shown on the placement chart?

A: Yes, you have a number of options:

- You can take Beginning I and II of a language different from the one you studied in high school.
- If you qualify, you can take the Multi-Cultural Experience. This option is open to students who have completed at least three years/units of language study in high school. Please see the current OBU Academic Catalog for details.
- You can pass the CLEP Exam for any modern language at Level I (Beginning) and receive 6 hours of credit. Please see the current OBU Academic Catalog for details.
- If you begin your language study at a level below what the placement chart indicates, those semester hours will count only as elective credits, and you'll still be required to take the courses indicated on the placement chart to satisfy your MFL requirement.

Q: What if I have taken two or more years of another modern language in high school besides French, German, or Spanish? Can I take the CLEP exam in that language to meet my Common Core modern language requirement?

A: Yes, if you pass at Level I (Beginning) and receive 6 hours of credit. Please see the current OBU catalog for details.

Q: I took Sign Language in High School. Does this count for the Common Core Language requirement?

A: OBU has determined that sign language does not meet the Common Core modern language requirement.