

Resolution 047
A Resolution to Alter the Language Requirements Within the Liberal Arts Curriculum

Sponsored by: Senator Martin

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Besendorfer, Senator Schlee, Senator Suarez

Whereas,

Majors in the following schools require proficiency in a non-English language through the intermediate level which through the 104-level course: School of Arts & Sciences, the National Catholic School of Social Service, the Busch School of Business, the School of Theology and Religious Studies, and the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America.¹

Whereas,

Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Nursing BSN, B.S. Architecture, Engineering (all programs), and Music BM majors do not have a language requirement.²

Whereas,

In order to complete this requirement, many students have lost opportunities to take other classes, double major, minor, get a certification, or graduate early due to taking language classes for up to four semesters.

Whereas,

Many of the classes spend a significant amount of time reviewing grammar already taught in previous courses instead of covering new material or skills.

Whereas,

Students are forced to pay \$82 to take a foreign language placement test, no matter if they want to be in the lowest language level or not, if their transfer credit is not approved or there is no appropriate score on another exam, such as the SAT II Language test, the AP or the IB exam.³

Whereas,

Not all foreign language courses are able to be transferred for credit, if it was taught at the student's previous high school, instead of directly at the university the course is derived from.

¹ University, Catholic. "Language Placement Tests." The Catholic University of America. Accessed March 28, 2022. <https://success.catholic.edu/incoming-students/registration/first-year-course-advice/foreign-language-placement/index.html>.

² "Liberal Arts Curriculum Outline - Catholic University." Google Docs. Google. Accessed April 9, 2022. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WXG_sc31wxZFEPiW3qDxGUdJgc0_VTjyst2W_KPbaCA/edit.

³ University, Catholic. "Foreign Languages Placement Information and Tests." The Catholic University of America. Accessed March 28, 2022. <https://modernlanguages.catholic.edu/academics/placement/index.html>.

Whereas,

The foreign language class 104 counts as one of the six classes required for a foreign language minor and one of the twelve classes required for a foreign language major.⁴

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests:

1. The University takes the foreign language level 104 out of the language requirement within all academic schools' versions of the Liberal Arts Curriculum.
2. The University reevaluates the first three courses required (101-103) to ensure the same requirements are incorporated in those to make up for 104 being taken out and reduce repetitiveness.
3. The University reiterates the importance of doing well on the language placement test for incoming students to ensure they are not placed in a lower class than they should be in and to send out information on the foreign language requirements ahead of time.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Abigail Anger
President of the Student Government Association

Monica Wallace
Vice President of the Student Government Association

⁴ University, Catholic. "Foreign Languages Placement Information and Tests." The Catholic University of America. Accessed March 28, 2022. <https://modernlanguages.catholic.edu/academics/placement/index.html>.