

October 8, 2012

Dear World Language Educator,

I am pleased to write to you all once again in order to remind you and your students of the current world language requirements for students attending Iowa State University, as well as to bring you up to date on world-language related opportunities planned for this year.

ISU World Language Requirements

The Department of World Languages and Cultures seeks to assist you in guiding your students as they plan for college. We encourage you and your students to visit our web site (www.language.iastate.edu) for easy access to academic policy updates, information on placement tests and exams for credit, scholarships, and curricular options in world languages.

Of utmost importance to students and parents considering ISU is the world language requirement in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), the largest college on campus and home to all “undecided” freshmen. The **entrance requirement** for LAS is **two years** of world language study in high school. However, the college **exit (or graduation) requirement** is **three years** of world language study in high school or one year of college-level language study. Because of this exit requirement, we strongly recommend that students complete study of a **full three-year language sequence of a single world language in high school**, even if they are not planning to pursue world languages at ISU. We stress to our college-bound high school students, their parents, and school counselors that a significant number of students will change their major during the course of their university studies. This may include changing from another college (e.g. Engineering) into a major within LAS. Regardless of when students transfer into LAS, they will be required to fulfill a one year college-level language requirement which they perhaps did not anticipate. **Please encourage your students to complete at minimum a three-year language sequence of a single world language in high school.**

Students who wish to continue world language study at Iowa State should be aware that they cannot take a first semester beginning language course if they have had two or more years of high school study in that language. **Please do share this information with your school counselors.**

An increasing number of undergraduate programs at Iowa State are now requiring world language study for completion of degree requirements. Let me mention a few:

Elementary Education (College of Human Sciences), Early Childhood Education (College of Human Sciences): three years of high school or one year college-level world language required for graduation;

International Business (College of Business): one year of college-level world language. These credits may be awarded by AP, CLEP or credit-by-examination if the class is not taken at ISU or another college or university. High school course work does not meet this exit requirement;

Political Science, International Studies (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences): two years of study of a single college-level world language.

College of Engineering, all majors: because of the increasing importance of the global workplace for today's engineers, the College of Engineering has approved an ***entrance requirement of two years*** of high-school level study in a single world language. This sends a strong signal to school districts that world language study is fast becoming a requirement for success in college and beyond.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), Global Resource Systems Major (GRS): The new major in ***Global Resource Systems*** requires two years of study of a single college-level world language. Note: CALS has recently endorsed the Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP) second major concentration in German, French, or Spanish for all majors enrolled in CALS. This is an excellent opportunity for students pursuing a major in a global profession in CALS. World Languages and Cultures has partnered with GRS to offer exciting new language, culture, study abroad, and internship opportunities.

Program in Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP)

The undergraduate second major in ***Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP)*** provides instruction in the professional use of a world language and acquisition of cultural knowledge, in collaboration with academic programs in Engineering, Business, and Agriculture. This second major option in French, German, and Spanish (as well as a minor option in Chinese and Russian) is available **only to undergraduates in Engineering, Business, and Agriculture** and incorporates in-depth language study, study abroad and international internship opportunities. Please encourage your best students to consider this option as a beneficial addition to their professional portfolio! For more information, contact Mark Looney at mlooney@iastate.edu

On-Line Placement Exams

We encourage *all* students who will have completed three or four years of high school study in Spanish, French or German and who are planning to attend ISU to take our **free online placement exam** (www.language.iastate.edu). This is a successful diagnostic tool for assuring that your students will be appropriately placed in a college world language class.

AP Credit in World Languages and Literatures

Students who participate in an Advanced Placement program in high school in a world language or literature may earn up to 16 college-level credits! These credits may be counted toward the following ISU requirements: general education requirements in the humanities; international perspectives; requirements for a world language major or minor; or elective credit. Students earning a score of 3 on French, German, or Spanish Language AP exams earn 8 credits, while a score of 4-5 earns 16 credits. In French and Spanish Literature a score of 3-5 earns 3 credits in literature at the 300-level. The Latin/Vergil exam provides 8 credits for students scoring a 3 on the AP exam while a score of 4-5 earns 12 credits. The Latin Literature exam provides 8 credits for students scoring a 3 on the exam; and a score of 4-5 earns 12 credits. Details on AP Exam Credit at Iowa state are available at www.admissions.iastate.edu/cbe/ap.php

Professional News and Opportunities

The Department of World Languages and Cultures is offering several professional development opportunities for students and world language educators:

- **On-line Elementary Latin for educators AND their students!** Are you interested in the historical development of modern Romance languages like French, Italian or Spanish? Are you fascinated by the literature and culture of Classical Rome? Do you have students seeking to increase their ACT and SAT scores? Then you may be interested in ISU's first on-line language program: **Elementary Latin 101 and 102, and Latin 201!**
- The Department of World Languages and Cultures offers a variety of study abroad programs in Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Peru, Russia, Spain and Latin America, among several others. Some of these programs are led by WLC faculty, while other opportunities are available through consortium partners. Students can take coursework in languages, literatures and cultures and often participate in an internship or service-learning project. Programs include family homestays, coursework at a top world university, excursions to historical and cultural sites, planned cultural activities, and full administrative support by ISU and affiliated universities abroad. In most cases, studying abroad can accelerate the fulfillment of a major or minor. Check out the online link for these programs:
<http://www.language.iastate.edu/main/advising/studyabroad.html>
- One significant program, open to entering freshmen, is the **ISU on the Mediterranean - Summer in Valencia, Spain program**, offered for six weeks each summer. This is an ISU-directed program where students live together with host families, participate in weekend excursions to important historical attractions, and participate in other activities. Students who study in Valencia can choose coursework in Spanish (100-400 levels) and English (Business, Engineering, Biology, and International Studies). For more information visit <http://www.language.iastate.edu/valencia/> or contact Dr. Chad M. Gasta at gasta@iastate.edu.

- **The 2013 Summer Seminar in Spain for Spanish Teachers** will be held in Cáceres, Spain at the University of Extremadura. Participants will study the culture of Spain and teaching methodologies as well as work on their own speaking skills. For information and program details contact Julie Wilhelm at: jwilhelm@iastate.edu
- **American Sign Language:** The Department of World Languages and Cultures now offers a beginning sequence in American Sign Language (ASL) including WLC 105x and 106x, which fulfill the world language requirement in Liberal Arts and Sciences. We are excited to be able to offer these new courses as part of the world language program.
- **Minor in World Film Studies:** We have launched a new minor in World Film Studies (15 credits total) which may be of interest to your students who are considering attending ISU. The minor includes a foundation course in Introduction to Global Film (WLC 278) as well as core courses and electives from national cinemas from the English-speaking world and in world languages.

As always, my colleagues and I extend to you an invitation to bring your students to visit us for a “Language Day” in Ames. We can offer you a tour of campus and the opportunity to meet our faculty and sit in on some language classes. Contact us at any time (515-294-4046) if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Rectanus
Professor of German and Chair
Department of World Languages and Cultures