

World Languages Placement Criteria

Upon acceptance into Jesuit, students with previous experience in French, Spanish or Latin may choose to take a Challenge Exam. These exams test their knowledge of concepts expected of students who have successfully completed one year or more of language study at Jesuit High School. As K-8th World Language learning varies greatly from school to school, Challenge Exam results provide the World Languages department with an accurate assessment of exactly where the incoming student will benefit most and be most successful.

The XL (Advanced, accelerated) and Honors courses are aimed at students who benefit from courses that progress at a faster pace and cover more material than the regular courses. These courses therefore require solid preparation, study habits, and motivation.

Depending on the language chosen to study, students have different options:

Latin (courses offered: levels 1, 2, 3 Honors, 4 AP)

Students with prior Latin studies may take the Latin Challenge Exam. Students scoring 80% or higher will be placed in Latin 2. Students scoring less than 80% will be placed in Latin 1.

French (courses offered: levels 1, 2, 3, 3 Honors, 4, 4 Honors)

Students with prior French studies may take the French Challenge Exam. This exam assesses knowledge of several grammar structures, thematic vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing skills. Grading is based on a 1-5 scale. Students scoring a 3 will be placed in French 2, students scoring 4-5 (a very rare occurrence) will be invited to enroll in French 3 Honors. Students scoring less than a 3 will be enrolled in French 1.

Spanish (courses offered: levels 1, 1XL, 2, 2XL, 3, 3 Honors, 4, 4 AP)**

****Note that there are 2 different criteria for enrollment in Spanish 1XL, one for students with prior Spanish experience and one for those with no previous Spanish exposure. For a more detailed description of Spanish 1XL, please see the last paragraph.**

- **Students with prior Spanish studies:** may take the Spanish Challenge exam. This test assesses knowledge of several grammar structures, thematic vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing skills. Grading is based on a 1-5 scale. Students scoring a 3 will be placed in Spanish 1XL, students scoring 4-5 (a very rare occurrence) will be invited to enroll in Spanish 2XL. Students scoring below a 3 will be placed in Spanish 1. Please note that highly successful students (A/A+ average) in Spanish 1 will be able to qualify for placement into Spanish 2XL sophomore year.
- **Students with NO PRIOR SPANISH EXPERIENCE:** students who qualify for English 1XL will be invited to consider enrolling in Spanish 1XL.

****Spanish 1XL is an accelerated version of Spanish 1, the first step in preparing students for the Spanish AP exam (typically senior year). The course is conducted as an immersion experience and qualified students quickly adapt, regardless of previous Spanish exposure or not. The course is challenging and rigorous, taught by a veteran instructor with experience with high achieving students who have little to no previous Spanish experience.**