



Arizona School for the Arts
A COLLEGE PREPARATORY AND PERFORMING ARTS TRADITION

Foreign Language (FL) Placement FAQ

If your student speaks French/Spanish at home or has taken previous French/Spanish courses, this document will help you and your student make the appropriate placement decision into ASA's Foreign Language program.

What is the FL department's mission?

The Foreign Language Department's mission is aligned with National and State Standards. The curriculum emphasizes a sequential and communicative approach that supports comprehension and expression while promoting appreciation, understanding, and awareness of cultural diversity by using dynamic classroom techniques while preparing students for upper-level college classes in the target foreign language.

What is a Foreign Language?

A foreign language is a language not widely spoken and used by the people of a community, a family, a society and/or a nation.

My child is exposed to Spanish/French at home. Can he/she take that language class at ASA?

No. When a language is being used at home, it is not considered a foreign language. Our classes at ASA are designed for students with little or no knowledge of French or Spanish.

*The main disadvantage of taking a foreign language class when it is not foreign to the student is that he/she is seldom challenged throughout the program. This misplacement in level is unfair for the student and his/her peers in the class. One of the many advantages of learning a foreign language besides being able to communicate in another language, is that the human brain makes new connections that improve memory, better decision-making skills, and improve cognitive abilities.

Does ASA offer language courses for native speakers or heritage learners?

Unfortunately not at this time. While we do support and encourage language development, our current courses are designed for students with little to no knowledge of Spanish or French.

My child has taken previous courses of Spanish/French as a foreign language at other schools, what should he/she do?

During orientation week, the student should request a time for a placement test with the Foreign Language department chair Ramon Miranda by email (miranda@goasa.org). Based on the results, your student will be placed at the most appropriate level.