



**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](mailto:miranda@goasa.org)). Based on the results, your student will be placed at the most appropriate level.

*Administrative Office:*

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