

OPTIONS TO FULFILL THE GEP LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

UMBC requires that all students complete a foreign language through the intermediate level or demonstrate proficiency at that level as part of General Education (GEP). The options below offer students various methods of fulfilling this requirement. Please access referenced websites for full information.

COLLEGE COURSEWORK

Coursework for the language sequence typically requires three classes (for example, SPAN 101, SPAN 102, and SPAN 201). UMBC offers many languages; students may also complete this requirement through other institutions depending on their transfer history. Students with an associate degree from a Maryland community college should discuss the Shady Grove Language Exception with their advisor, which may permit the transfer of additional credits over the 60 credit limit.

TESTING

There are a few testing options to demonstrate language proficiency:

- CLEP/IB: Offers credit and requirement completion if you meet the required score; includes Spanish, French, and German
- NYU: Offers requirement completion if you score at least ten points; includes most languages
- UPenn Exam: Offers requirement completion if you achieve the intermediate-mid ranking; includes unique languages

It is critical that scores from these exams be sent directly to UMBC for your degree audit to update. Please visit catalog.umbc.edu or mlli.umbc.edu for information on these test options and submission guidelines

HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK/LANGUAGE EXPOSURE

There are a few options to demonstrate language proficiency that consider your previous exposure to a language:

- High school language courses: Offers requirement completion if you completed through level four or higher (this also applies to students who study a language abroad in high school)
- AP courses: Offers requirements completion if you score three or higher on AP exam
- Language of instruction: Offers requirement completion if 1) you attended a secondary school (i.e., sixth grade or above) in which the language of instruction was not English, or 2) you attended an English-speaking secondary school or a comprehensive program accredited by a foreign government and have at least one year of education in your first language at that level

For these waivers, you must complete an application. Please visit mlli.umbc.edu for more information on this process.

ACCOMMODATION SUBSTITUTION

Students with documented disabilities that significantly impact language acquisition and communication can request to be considered for a 201 level Foreign Language GEP requirement course substitution through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS). Course substitution procedures can be found on the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu under the "Services" menu