

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Morris Campus*

*Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
Academic Affairs and Dean*

*315 Behmler Hall  
600 East 4th Street  
Morris, MN 56267-2132*

*320-589-6015  
Fax: 320-589-6399  
[www.morris.umn.edu/dean/](http://www.morris.umn.edu/dean/)*

September 16, 2016

**Memo To:** Steering Committee

**From:** Bart Finzel, Chair, Curriculum Committee

**Subject:** Proposed change to the Foreign Language Requirement in General Education

As part of the continuing review of our General Education program the Curriculum Committee began in 2011, the Committee has endorsed a change to the Foreign Language (FL) requirement to strengthen the skills component to general education and to ensure the student learning outcomes associated with our mission of "...preparing students to be global citizens..." are more likely to be met. The proposed change is attached and is coming before the Campus Assembly for information and discussion at this time.

BDF/dkp

## Foreign Language General Education Proposal

The proposal would change the general education requirements on p. 65 of the 2015-17 Morris Catalog as follows:

### 1. General Education Requirements

(60 credits)

Goals of the General Education Requirements

#### I. Intellectual Community

#### II. A. Writing for the Liberal Arts

~~B. Foreign Language: To develop proficiency in a single language other than English at the level equivalent to the first full year of college language study.~~

**B. World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures:** To develop skills and knowledge in a single language and its literatures and cultures by completing a minimum of 8 credits of a world language or demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two years of college language study.

**C. Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning:** To strengthen students' ability to formulate abstractions, construct proofs, and utilize symbols in formal systems.

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On page 66 of 2015-17 Morris Catalog, the proposal would change proviso i of the General Education requirements to the following:

~~B. Foreign Language (FL)—Proficiency in a single language other than English at the level equivalent to the first full year of college language study.~~

**B. World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (WLLC):** To develop skills and knowledge in a single language and its literatures and cultures by completing a minimum of 8 credits of a world language or demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two years of college language study.

This requirement can be met in any one of the following ways:

- ~~• by successfully completing a beginning language II course;~~
- by completing a full year of college level coursework in a single language. At UMM, this is met by completing 8 credits of a world language;
- by successfully completing a 2xxx or 3xxx 2002 or a higher level language course;
- by passing a proctored proficiency exam;
- by achieving appropriate AP, CLEP, or IB examination scores; or
- through the Scholastic Committee if English is not the student's first language.

Placement tests in selected languages are given by Morris language disciplines to determine the level of pre-college proficiency of a student with prior coursework. Students who plan to study at Morris in the same language that they studied in high school must take the placement examination and abide by the placement recommendation. If after initial exposure to the recommended course the placement is not appropriate to the student's level, students may consult their language instructors as to the proper course level of study.

Students who wish to "test out" of a second language based on prior learning in French, German, or Spanish must pass a proctored proficiency exam. The initial online Morris placement examination does not fulfill this requirement.

Students who studied a second language other than German, French, or Spanish may contact the Scholastic Committee for further information.