

Department of Scandinavian Studies: Language Placement and Testing Policy

The Department of Scandinavian Studies welcomes students with an interest in the study of the Nordic and Baltic languages to enroll in department courses and pursue a major or minor in their target language. Any UW student with previous language training or experience may take a placement test administered by the faculty member serving as the instructor for that language sequence. Once the student has completed a placement test, the instructor will provide them with an **entry code** (“add code”) for the appropriate language course.

If a student places into an intermediate or advanced language course (for example, 201 or higher) and they also intend to pursue one of the department’s **majors or minors**, then they may apply for “Credits by Special Examination” as outlined here:

<https://registrar.washington.edu/registration/policies-procedures/>

Note the Department’s policy on *Credits by Special Examination*:

- A maximum of **15 credits** earned by “credits by special examination” for Nordic or Baltic language skills may be counted toward a major or minor.
- According to UW registrar’s policy, the student must register for the “Special Examination” by the second Friday of the quarter and they must complete the exam by the Friday of week seven of the quarter. If a student misses the deadline, the department cannot offer the exam. (Note that UW does not allow students to apply for “Credits by Special Examination” for lower levels of a course sequence, once they have completed a higher level of the course sequence).
- The department does *not* provide language proficiency testing (or Credits by Special Examination) for students who are not completing a departmental major or minor.
- The department does *not* provide language proficiency testing for students from other institutions outside of the UW.
- The department’s language placement testing policy observes the UW’s definition of “native speaker” for the *foreign language requirement* [cited below].

UW definition: English as a Second Language:

“You are exempt from the *foreign language requirement* if you spoke a language other than English in your home during the first six years of your childhood, **and** it was the language in which you received instruction in school through the seventh grade. See the [Office of Admissions](#) to have it recorded in your record that you are a **native speaker** of another language. If you do not meet this definition, you may still be able to pass a [proficiency test](#) in your language.”

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