

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT IN CHINESE
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

1. Before making a decision regarding the student's placement, we usually consider the following:

- a) How many years of Chinese has the student taken prior to Union?
- b) What grades did the student get?
- c) Has the student taken other languages? How was his/her performance (grades)?
- d) Is the student a native speaker of Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), or has the student attended Chinese language school in the past?
- e) We chat in Chinese with the student to determine the following: level of preparation, degree of motivation, shyness, and level of confidence. We also have them read short passages out of the current textbook, or look over a level-appropriate exam for students who are native speakers or who have previously taken Chinese.

Important: Years of formal Chinese study previous to high school do not count toward placement. As high school Chinese programs vary considerably in quality and depth, and native speaker exposure to the language similarly differs, the following recommendations should be considered with caution. Ultimately, students with prior knowledge of Chinese will be asked to consult with the professor of the course or the language coordinator.

* RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS:

a) **CHN 100** is for students with no language experience or for those who took one year of Chinese in high school. If the student has taken two years of CHN in high school but has not continued for at least one year, the student must seek the permission of the professor(s) teaching CHN 100 to be admitted in the class. For the sake of practicality, students wanting to sign up for CHN 100 will be asked to sign up for advising with the professor teaching CHN 100 or the basic sequence coordinator if s/he has prior knowledge of Chinese.

b) **CHN 101** should be for students with more than four years of high school Chinese. Students must be proficient in basic sentence structure (S-V-O) and be able to write at least 50 characters. CHN 101 is not offered during the Fall term. Students wanting to sign up for CHN 101 will be asked to sign up for advising with the professor teaching the course.

b) **CHN 102:** Only in exceptional cases should students be placed in CHN 102 without having taken CHN 101. For native speakers with no prior skill in writing characters this course may be appropriate, but this can only be decided after meeting with the professor or language coordinator. Native speakers with prior skill with characters most often begin the CHN 200 sequence after self-study of the coursework covered in the CHN 100 sequence. All students are expected to write in Chinese characters ONLY by CHN 102.

c) **SCHN 200-202:** Students with at least one year of college Chinese, five years of high school Chinese, or native speakers of Chinese at home and with skill in writing characters can be placed in CHN 200. For students seeking placement in the CHN 200 sequence without having completed the CHN 100 sequence, they need to consult the professor teaching the class or the sequence coordinator.

d) **CHN 300-level courses:** No student should really be placed at this level (unless we are dealing with a “transfer” student who already took advance Chinese grammar and writing or a native-speaker with schooling in a Chinese-speaking country). Again, the professor teaching the course should meet with the student.

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