

GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PRE-REGISTRATION ADVISING  
FRENCH SECTION  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

1. Before making a decision regarding the student's placement, please consider the following:
  - a) How long ago did the student take the last course in French?
  - b) What grades did the student get?
  - c) Chat in French with the student to determine the following: level of preparation, degree of motivation, shyness, and level of confidence.

\* According to the departmental guidelines, if the grades show poor performance, if the student took his / her last course in French a long time ago, or if after talking to the student, the professor perceives poor preparation, the student may be dropped one level.

2. Standard placement:

- a) FRN 100: 0 – 1 year experience of FRN in high school
- b) FRN 101: roughly 2 yrs FRN in high school
- c) FRN 102: roughly 3 yrs FRN in high school
- d) FRN 200: roughly 4 yrs FRN in high school
- e) FRN 201: 4+ yrs, plus excellent exposure, high AP scores, etc.
- f) FRN 300: rare (native speaker or transfer student)

\* Most common "borderline" placement cases that pose problems:

a) **FRN 100 / FRN 101:** Given the approach implemented in the Basic sequence with *Allons-y*, we should carefully consider placing in FRN 101 students with less than three years of French. To be placed in FRN 101, students must be at least proficient in the present tense, and to have been introduced to the passé composé tense and to direct and indirect object pronouns. FRN 101 is not offered during the Fall term: what to do? Avoid guiding the student to take FRN 102 if we should really advise the student to wait until the Winter term.

b) **FRN 101 / FRN 102 / FRN 200:** With students with 2-3 years of FRN experience, only the stronger students should be placed in FRN 102 without having taken FRN 101; those students with a strong preparation, interest and grades will be better suited, however, for FRN 102. If the student has poor preparation and is not willing to review by himself / herself (since the student will be competing with students coming from FRN 101), FRN 102 may not be the best option. On the other hand, students who have taken up to 4 years of FRN in high school but are resuming FRN after an interval of a year or longer, could be placed in FRN 102. Otherwise, students with 3-4 years experience could consider FRN 200, if they have particularly strong preparation and are willing to review by themselves.

c) **FRN 200-201:** Students with at least four years of French (not in middle school) and good oral skills can be placed in FRN 200. Students that have lapses in their language classes are always problematic (i.e., a junior that had 4 years of high school French); it is important to tell them that they will have to work harder to catch up with the rest of the class. More and more first-year students are coming having taken an AP exam (not just an AP class) or otherwise exceptionally strong preparation. Someone in this situation with an AP score of 4 or 5 should be placed in FRN 201.

d) **FRN 300:** No student should really be placed at this level (unless we are dealing with a "transfer" student or a native-speaker with schooling in a French-speaking country).