

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

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

- a) How long ago did the student take the last course in Spanish?
- b) What grades did the student get?
- c) Has the student taken other languages? How was his/her performance (grades)?
- d) We chat in Spanish with the student to determine the following: level of preparation, degree of motivation, shyness, and level of confidence.

Important: Years of Spanish study previous to high school should not be counted toward placement.

* RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS:

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

b) **SPN 101** should be for students with up to two years of Spanish. A student with three years of Spanish may be accepted in SPN 101 by the professor teaching the course if the student has not had Spanish in one or more years. Students must be proficient in the present tense, have basic knowledge of the preterite tense, and direct and indirect object pronouns. SPN 101 is not offered during the Fall term; students should avoid enrolling in SPN 12 when they should really wait until SPN 101 is offered. Students wanting to sign up for SPN 101 will be asked to sign up for advising with the professor teaching the course.

b) **SPN 102:** Only in exceptional cases should students be placed in SPN 102 without having taken SPN 101; those students with a strong preparation (three or four years of Spanish), interest and grades will be better suited for SPN 102. Do not forget that SPN 102, due to the nature of the grammar covered throughout the course, could result more of a challenge than SPN 200. For students with poor preparation and not willing to review by himself / herself (since the student will be competing with students coming from SPN 101), SPN 102 may not be the best option. On the other hand, students who have taken up to 4 years of SPN in high school but are resuming SPN after an interval of a year or longer, may be placed in SPN 102 by the professor teaching the class.

c) **SPN 200-202:** Students with at least four years of Spanish (not in middle school) and good oral skills can be placed in SPN 200. Students that have lapses in their language classes are always problematic (i.e., a junior that had 4 years of high school Spanish); 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). Someone in this situation with an AP score of 4 or 5 should be placed in SPN201 and, perhaps, even in SPN202. For placement in SPN 202, the professor teaching the class or the sequence coordinator should be consulted.

d) **SPN 203:** Only in exceptional cases should students be placed in SPN 203 (i.e., native speaker with AP Spanish). **In a case like that, whoever is advising should direct the student to the professor teaching the section of SPN 203 in which the student will be placed.**

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

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