

**FAQs about choosing the appropriate Spanish course level:**

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**FAQ #1. How do I know in which Spanish course level to enroll?**

The general rule for selecting the appropriate Spanish language course is the following:

- 0-1 years of Spanish language course experience: Enroll in SPN 1120
- 2 years of Spanish language course experience: Enroll in SPN 1121
- 2 or more years of Spanish language course experience: Enroll in SPN 2220 or SPN 2221. If you encounter problems registering, please email the instructor of SPN 2220 or 2221.

- Grew up in a Spanish speaking household or community: Enroll in SPN 1340, 2341, or 3343. Contact Dr. Godón, Head of Spanish, at [ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu) if this applies to you and she will work with you to place you appropriately.

## **FAQ #2. I speak Spanish at home or I have grown up speaking Spanish, what course do I take?**

If this applies to you, you will not be permitted to remain enrolled in SPN 1120/1121/2220/2221. See **FAQ #12** below for more information.

## **FAQ #3. I took two years of Spanish in high school, what course do I take?**

If you took two years of Spanish, you need to enroll in Spanish 1121 or 2220 or 2221. Both SPN 1121 and SPN 2220 are great courses, each covering three chapters in an introductory textbook, and they are meant for those who have had two years of prior Spanish courses in high school (or similar). SPN 2221 uses an intermediate textbook and is also a great course focusing on language and culture.

## **FAQ #4. Why shouldn't I take SPN 1120 if I took two years of Spanish in high school?**

If you took two years of Spanish, you are more than prepared to talk about some of the topics covered in SPN 1120 such as your family, the four seasons, description of your city (streets, highways, etc.) which means you must enroll in 1121 or 2220 or 2221. In fact, if you took two years of Spanish in high school, you likely finished a similar textbook to the one used in SPN 1120/1121/2220 and went on to an intermediate-style book. Taking 1121 or 2220 or 2221 sets you up nicely if you want to continue on to take courses that push you to be able to have more conversations in Spanish.

## **FAQ #5. I took three years of Spanish in high school, what course do I take?**

Enroll in SPN 2220 or SPN 2221. Preferably, you would take 2221 but you must take at least 2220. If there is a computer block when you are trying to register, simply send the instructor an email and include your Z number. They will make it possible for you to enroll as it's just a computer error.

## **FAQ #6. Someone told me I need to take two semesters of a foreign language, is this true?**

NO - not necessarily. The requirement is proficiency-based and states that you must successfully complete an 1121 level language course or above in order to satisfy your language requirement. On that note, occasionally some students are

under the impression that you have to take two semesters of a language; however, this is not necessarily true. The university requirement states that you must prove proficiency at the 1121 level, which is satisfied by successfully completing 1121 or above. See below for more information on the University Language Requirement.

### **FAQ #7. What is Spanish 1120, then?**

SPN 1120 is reserved for those that have **never** taken Spanish before or if you took Spanish before but it was a long time ago. Let's say you took Spanish your freshman and sophomore year of high school and you graduated high school in 2017. This would mean that you haven't taken Spanish in five and a half years. The choice is yours if you wish to start in 1120 or go directly into 1121. That said, if you took two years of Spanish in high school, but you are an incoming FAU freshman and only two years have passed, SPN 1121 might be the best option for you.

### **FAQ #8. I don't feel prepared. What do I do?**

This is normal. Language learning can be challenging. We look forward to helping you learn languages so that you can be successful in your pursuit of knowledge. We are here to support you in your language learning path. Please take advantage of extra credit opportunities, office hours, tutoring, and many more out of the class events.

### **FAQ #9. Do I need to take the mandatory placement exam? Yes - Everyone who is enrolling in an FAU Spanish class for the first time needs to take the placement exam. (unless you have never taken Spanish before or you have already earned college credit in a lower-level course).**

The purpose of this placement exam is for you to demonstrate that you actually belong in SPN 1120 and/or help determine which level is most appropriate for you. Taking the placement exam is mandatory for anyone enrolling in their first FAU Spanish class with the following exceptions: 1) you earned college credit at another university and you are simply going into the next level, 2) you have never taken Spanish before. Everyone can enroll in 1121/2220/2221 without a rationale for that level (unless you should be in a higher level than the course in which you enroll). In other words, you can always take a higher level than what your score indicates. If you took the placement exam and you placed into 1120, but you want to take 1121, you certainly can. Or, if you took the exam and placed into 1121, but you want to take 2220, you certainly can. There are typically between 9 and 14 questions on the exam. If you place out of SPN 1120 but wish to remain in SPN 1120, you must email Dr. Godón ([ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu)) to receive official permission to remain in SPN 1120. **Dr. Godón is the only one that can authorize this decision.**

## **FAQ #10 How do I take the mandatory placement exam?**

After you complete the test online, a numerical scale will appear informing you which course level you place into. If you place into a level other than 1120, you must enroll in that course level. If you have any questions about your placement, email Dr. Godón ([ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu)), Head of Spanish, or Dr. White, Director of the Spanish Basic Language program ([jwhite94@fau.edu](mailto:jwhite94@fau.edu)). **Only Dr. Godón can provide you with the authorization to remain in a course lower than the level into which you place.**

If you place into SPN 2220/2221 and experience problems registering (i.e., a message may appear indicating a prerequisite or test score error), please send an e-mail to the professor of the course section requesting that they lift the registration block, as this is simply a computer error. Their email is available in the course schedule system [here](#). Again, if you are a heritage learner, contact Dr. Godón ([ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu)).

### **Placement Exam Instructions:**

1. Go to the following website (copy and paste the following address):  
<http://www.fau.edu/spanish/SPN.php>
2. Fill in your personal information and set up a username and password
3. Complete the test (10 - 25 minutes)

**Note:** You do not need to send the test results to your instructor.

## **FAQ #11. What is the University Language Requirement?**

I would like to explain the basis of SPN 1120, SPN 1121, SPN 2220, as well as the university language requirement. Also, any of the heritage learner courses satisfies the university language requirement.

First, SPN 1120 is the first level out of three Spanish basic language course levels. SPN 1120 uses the first three chapters of a nine-chapter introductory Spanish textbook. Second, SPN 1121 uses the second three chapters of the same book. Finally, SPN 2220 uses the last three chapters of the same book. Both SPN 1121 and SPN 2220 do a quick review of the material from the previous semester(s) as a refresher.

That said, if you took one year of Spanish in high school, you certainly covered three chapters of a similar book and likely covered six chapters of a similar book over the course of an entire year. If you took two years of Spanish in high school, you likely finished a similar textbook and went on to an intermediate-style book. Now, let's consider the university language requirement. The requirement is proficiency-based and states that you must successfully complete an 1121 level language course (or above) in order to satisfy your language requirement. On that note, occasionally some students are under the impression that you have to take two semesters of a language, however, this is not true. The university requirement

states that you must prove proficiency at the 1121 level, which is satisfied by successfully completing 1121 or above.

Therefore, based on this information, you could fulfill the university language requirement in just one semester by successfully completing 1121 or 2220 or 2221 (or above). Of course, you are welcome to continue on to more language courses and we will be more than happy to talk with you about that option! Keep in mind that you could also consider pursuing a minor in Spanish, which is very marketable.

I hope this clarifies the role of 1120, 1121, 2220 and the university language requirement.

### **FAQ #12. I grew up around Spanish, what course do I take?**

Did you grow up in a Spanish speaking household or in a Spanish speaking community? If so, you may qualify to enroll in one of the courses below and by successfully completing any one of these courses you will satisfy the University language requirement!

SPN 1340 Beginning Spanish for Heritage Learners

SPN 2341 Intermediate Spanish for Heritage Learners

SPN 3343 Advanced Spanish for Heritage Learners

To enroll, please e-mail Dr. Godón at [ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu) to provide you with the Heritage Learner placement exam.

Don't let the title of the course scare you. A Heritage Learner is someone who has grown up around Spanish and Heritage Learner proficiency levels can range from the beginning level of being able to understand or recognize Spanish all the way to the advanced level of being able to near perfectly redact Spanish in oral and written forms. For this reason, we offer three different levels of Spanish in this language track.

Keep in mind that successful completion of any of the above courses meets the University language requirement. Also, SPN 2341 counts towards a minor and SPN 3343 counts towards a major! We encourage you to consider either of these marketable additions to your program of study. Also keep in mind that SPN 1120/1121/2220/2221 are reserved for non-native speakers of Spanish and you risk being dropped from these courses if deemed that you should have enrolled in the Heritage Learner language track. If you have further questions, email Dr. Godón at [ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu).

### **FAQ #13. I want to enroll in SPN 1121, but all course sections are full, what do I do?**

If you are currently enrolled in SPN 1120, but you have placed into SPN 1121 and all of the sections are full, you will need to start by putting yourself on the waitlist for SPN 1121 and by dropping SPN 1120. It is possible that more seats will open

up in SPN 1121 and then you will be able to register. See the Registrar's page for information about how the waitlist functions [here](#). Your instructor will **not** be able to provide you with an override. If you are unable to complete SPN 1121 this semester, you can take the course during a future semester. Please note that the fast-track Spanish 1121 courses that meet TWRP are reserved for those also taking the fast-track 1120 courses. Also, note that some sections are only available at the high school and you will not be able to enroll in those sections. If you are a graduating senior graduating this semester and in need of an override, please email your advisor to provide verification that you are graduating this semester and copy Dr. Godón ([ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu)) and Dr. White ([jwhite94@fau.edu](mailto:jwhite94@fau.edu)).

**FAQ #14. What is the format of Summer/Fall 2021 Spanish classes?**

The format of a particular section of Spanish will depend on how it is listed on the course schedule ([here](#)). If you have any questions about a particular section, email the instructor of the course listed on the course schedule.

**FAQ #15. I am interested in majoring/double majoring/minoring in Spanish, what do I do?**

Great! Contact Dr. Godon, The Head of Spanish, at [ngodon@fau.edu](mailto:ngodon@fau.edu) for more information and guidance.