

## Informational Item about American Sign Language for FLEX

As of August 1, 1991, American Sign Language is officially recognized as a foreign language by the State of Florida for purposes of admission to a state university and exemptions for foreign language requirements.

Students who have taken American Sign Language (ASL) in high school and who may have attained enough proficiency (at the level of second semester) are not able to prove their proficiency via a test because we do not have a CLEP or FLATS test currently available like we do for other languages.

Currently, the only way a student can use ASL to fulfill FLEX is to actually take the class at FAU when it is offered (option 6).

## Foreign Language Requirement

Florida Atlantic University has two language requirements: FLENT (Foreign Language Entrance Requirement) and FLEX (Foreign Language Exit Requirement, also known as the Foreign Language Graduation Requirement).

FLENT is an admission requirement of the State University System that requires a student to have taken two years of the same language in high school. Universities may waive the FLENT requirement for students seeking admission. However, if FLENT is waived, the student must satisfy the FLEX requirement no matter what degree is being pursued at FAU.

FLEX is two semesters of the same language at the first-year college level or **a demonstrated equivalent proficiency**.

FLEX may be satisfied by any of the following methods:

1. Successful completion of two semesters of a first-year college-level sequence (XXX 1120/1121\*) of the same foreign language.
2. Successful completion of the second semester of a first-year college-level sequence (XXX 1121 course) OR a higher-level foreign language course.
3. Take a placement exam and achieve a passing score to test out of the requirement. This can be fulfilled by CLEP, AP or IB (see the Acceleration Mechanisms for Undergraduate Students section of the catalog for passing scores).
4. **Students who have significant prior exposure in a foreign language and do not have one of the placement examinations listed above (CLEP, AP or IB) should contact the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature to complete a standardized examination.**
5. For students whose secondary or post-secondary curriculum was taught in a foreign language, the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature can evaluate their official school records to determine if the language proficiency has been met.
6. **Successful completion of the second semester of a first-year, college-level American Sign Language sequence, unless specified differently by the student's degree program.** [this is the other option available without a placement test as described in 3 or 4 above]

\* FAU has standard course numbering for its foreign language courses. All first-year, first-semester courses are numbered 1120 and all first-year, second-semester courses are numbered 1121. For example: SPN 1120; SPN 1121.

Note: As a general guideline for placement purposes, one year of foreign language study at the high school level equates to one semester of foreign language study in college. If a student has taken one year of Spanish in high school for example, that student would normally be expected to enroll in SPN 1121, the second semester of Beginning Spanish Language and Culture. If, however, more than three years have elapsed between the student's high school language study and his/her continuation at FAU, then this guideline may not apply.

**Potential Solution:**

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Gallaudet University offers remote ASL proficiency evaluation. We can become an officially registered proctoring site for this service. We have several other testing vendors through whom we provide this same service, for hundreds of other languages. You can find more about Gallaudet's service here: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/the-american-sign-language-proficiency-interview/aslpi/aslpi-proctor>.

I am more than happy to reach out to Gallaudet to get us set up to deliver their exams here, for any student who needs to demonstrate ASL proficiency via live test.