

Memo: AP Exam Exemption for Latin

To: General Education Committee, University Faculty Council, and Teaching Faculty

From: Joe Romero, Chair, Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion and Professor of Classics (Latin Literature), Liane Houghtalin (Prof. of Classics), and Angela Pitts (Professor of Classics)

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This memo serves to notify the General Education Committee, the University Faculty Council, and Teaching Faculty of an error in the New General Education Learning Outcomes description of how intermediate competency in a second language may be demonstrated. That document (“Student Learning Outcomes for the General Education Curriculum”, p. 8) currently reads:

Intermediate competency in a second language may be demonstrated by:

- completion of 201 or higher in a language;
- a score of 620 or higher on any language SAT II subject test;
- **a score of 3 or higher on any language AP Exam or on any Language and Literature AP Exam** (including the Latin Vergil AP Exam); a score of 5 or higher on any group 2 (second language) higher-level IB Exam [Additional scores on HL and SL IB exams may also satisfy the requirement. Check the equivalency chart carefully.];
- a passing score on the University of Mary Washington language competency exam;
- a rating of “Intermediate” on the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI);
- a rating equivalent to “Intermediate-Low Competency” on the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) scale on an approved third-party exam;
- a score of 60 or higher on the CLEP exam
- completion of Level IV in a language in high school as verified by high school transcript; or
- the submission of pertinent documents which verify that a student has had a high school education conducted in a language other than English or has lived extensively in and become fluent in the language of a non-English-speaking country.

The error lies in the fact that a score of 3 on the Latin AP exam is not equivalent to completion of Latin 201. **A score of 4, however, does demonstrate the appropriate (201-level) competency of intermediate Latin.** This equivalency (of 4 or higher on the Latin AP exam = demonstration of intermediate competency according to the new general education requirements) has already been established by faculty governance, and there has been an error in the final document. Bullet #3 should read: **“a score of 3 or higher on any modern language or language and literature AP Exam or a score of 4 or higher on a Latin AP Exam”.**

We have notified the Nicole Crowder, the chair of the General Education Committee, of this error, and her response was: “The equivalency has already been established by faculty governance. We just need to correct this paragraph.” (Email, dated 10/14/2019). We ask the General Education Committee to make that correction so that faculty and staff advisors have the correct information when they advise students.