**Second Language Placement Test**

*All* students who have previously studied French or Spanish should complete the two-step placement process.

The placement test is essential for students pursuing at B.A. degree, who are required to study two semesters of a foreign language or demonstrate equivalent proficiency.

The placement test is also important for students pursuing a B.S. degree: some already know they wish to continue studying a language; others might decide later to continue studying a language; or a student might change majors to one that is a B.A. degree, which has a foreign language requirement. (Students pursuing a B.S. degree who have a *second* major from a B.A. degree field are not subject to the foreign language requirement.)

If a student has previously studied French or Spanish but wants to begin studying a new language at Saint Michael’s College, the student should still take the placement test — since some students later change their minds and revert to the language they previously studied.

STEP 1: ONLINE TEST

1. Access the required, online placement test at [this link](http://bit.ly/32tAgkM).

*Or use this web address*: <http://bit.ly/32tAgkM>

1. Create an account and password as required.
2. After successful login, choose the appropriate language: **Chinese**, **French**, **German**, **Italian**, or **Spanish**.
3. Please answer all the questions about your experience with the language or other languages.
4. Read instructions, complete sample item, and begin test.

\* *The test should be completed without any outside assistance, books, or other materials.*

1. The test takes approximately 20 minutes, depending on your level. Results will be displayed once the test is completed.

\* *If your test session is interrupted and you have not completed the placement test, you must login again and enter your information exactly as you did when you started the test and then click Resume.*

1. Once completed, scores will also be visible to the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures. Students should print or download a copy for their records.

*\* Students take the placement test only once. If taken multiple times, only the first score will be counted.*

**Preliminary placement** will be indicated based on your score. For French and Spanish, preliminary placement is recommended as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Online Score** | ***Preliminary* Placement** | **Written Test** |
| 0-239 | FR/SP 101 | NA |
| 240-258 | FR/SP 101 | *Required to finalize placement* |
| 259-319 | FR/SP 102 | *Required to finalize placement* |
| 320-369 | FR/SP 203 (if desired) | *Required to finalize placement* |
| 370 and above | FR/SP 206 (if desired) | *Required to finalize placement* |

STEP 2: WRITTEN TEST

Students who score ***above* 240** on the online test must also take the written portion of the placement test on campus to confirm and finalize their placement. This consists of responding in writing to a broad, generic question that asks you to describe yourself and compare yourself to another person in order to demonstrate your range of vocabulary (attributes, preferences, family, activities, emotions, etc.) and which verb forms you can use. Students are allowed up to one hour for the written test.

* If you entered SMC in **academic year 2020-2021** or **2019-2020**, to complete the **written test** please see the instructions for the appropriate language in the Canvas course corresponding to the year in which you first matriculated:
	+ [Language Placement 2020-2021](https://smcvt.instructure.com/courses/12905)
	+ [Language Placement 2019-2020](https://smcvt.instructure.com/courses/11587)

If you have any problem accessing Canvas, you can find the same instructions on the next page below, and you can send your completed written exam to the Chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Peter Vantine (pvantine@smcvt.edu). (The preferred method, however, is for you to upload your completed written exam within Canvas.)

* If you entered SMC in the middle of an academic year (spring semester), please contact Peter Vantine (pvantine@smcvt.edu) to be added to the appropriate placement course in Canvas, where you can then see the instructions to complete the **written test** for the relevant language.
* If you entered SMC **prior to fall 2019**, use the written exam instructions below and then send your completed written exam to the Chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Peter Vantine (pvantine@smcvt.edu).

Students whose online and written placement results qualify them for **FR/SP 203 or above** have *met the foreign language proficiency requirement for B.A. degrees*. However, even students who have met the requirement are encouraged to consider continuing their study of the language at the level of their placement. Similarly, although B.S. students have no foreign language requirement, they are encouraged to consider continuing studying a language at the appropriate level.

**Second Language Placement: Written Exam**

OVERVIEW

You will respond in writing to a broad, generic question that asks you to describe yourself and compare yourself to another person in order to demonstrate your range of vocabulary (attributes, preferences, family, activities, emotions, etc.) and which verb forms you can use. Your response must be hand written and then submitted electronically as a scanned image (pdf) or photo. Students are allowed up to one hour to complete the written exam, not including whatever time is required to upload your completed work.

PREPARATION

It may be useful to review your French or Spanish before beginning the written exam, particularly if it has been several weeks or months (or longer) since you have practiced your language skills. See **French and Spanish** **Resources for Review (Test Prep)** in the appendix following this message.

Once you begin the written test, you may NOT use *any* form of outside support. This means no online, print, or other resources; no textbooks, dictionaries or translation programs; no assistance from a family member, friend, or any other individual or service. Disregard for this guideline constitutes a violation of the College’s Academic Integrity Policy.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use **lined paper** and a **pen or pencil***.*You will be providing a **hand-written**sample of your writing in the relevant language. (See below to request accommodations for a documented condition or disability.)

*Write as****legibly****as possible and make sure your writing is sufficiently****visible****(not too faint) so as to be clearly captured when scanned or photographed.*

1. At the top of the page, write your **first** **name**,**last name**, and the **date**. Then respond to the **writing prompt** provided below.

*You may spend up to****one hour****on your response, though some students may finish in a shorter amount of time. Please write at least****300 words****, if feasible relative to your skill level. A writing sample that is significantly shorter will be interpreted as an indication of a lower level of proficiency.*

1. At the end of your written response, write out and sign the following **pledge** (in English):

*I certify that I have not used any outside support or resources on this written exam. The response I am submitting is my own work.*

*Remember to add your****signature****following your pledge.*

1. Once you have completed your written response, use a phone or copier/scanner to **scan or photograph** your work.

*If your response consists of more than one page (or of a double-sided page), please be sure to scan or photograph and submit your entire writing sample. If possible, combine multiple pages into a single pdf document, but multiple files/images may be submitted if necessary.*

1. **Submit** your writing sample as a digital file by sending it to **Peter Vantine**, Chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages & Literatures: pvantine@smcvt.edu.

\* Note: Students who entered SMC in fall 2019 or later should submit their **written test** directly in the Canvas course corresponding the year in which they first matriculated:

* [Language Placement 2020-2021](https://smcvt.instructure.com/courses/12905)
* [Language Placement 2019-2020](https://smcvt.instructure.com/courses/11587)

*After you submit your written exam, it will be scored by one or more language instructors. This may take a few days or a few weeks, depending on a combination of factors: when the exam is submitted, the total number of exams to be scored in a given batch, and when the results are needed (relative to the course registration period, the start of the next semester, or the add/drop period at the start of the semester).*

WRITING PROMPT

Write a detailed description of yourself and a close friend in which you **compare yourself to your friend** and **describe your relationship**. Use as much *specific****vocabulary***as possible to demonstrate the range of your vocabulary. Be attentive to the *logical and accurate use of****verb tenses and moods***in relation to the information you provide. Your response should include the following types of information and grammatical structures:

* You and your friend’s respective physical appearances, personalities, and family situations (*present tense*);
* Likes and dislikes with regard to things such as food, music, television, cinema, reading, etc. (*present tense*);
* Talents or favorite activities such as playing sports, music, hobbies, and/or travel (*present tense*);
* Examples of what you used to do together in general and what you did once, such as on a holiday or special occasion (*past tenses*);
* Examples of plans for the future (*future tenses*), including things you *would*do under certain circumstances (*conditional*);
* Examples of desires, doubts and/or obligations (*subjunctive*).

RESULTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Placement** |
|    1 |  FR 101, 1st-Semester French |
|   2 |  FR 102, 2nd-Semester French |
|   3 |  FR 203, 3rd-Semester French, or equivalent level course |
|   4 |  FR 206, 4th-Semester French, or FR 208, Conversation in French |
|   5 |  FR 310, Advanced Communication and Culture |
|   6 |  Advanced Electives (300 level) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Placement** |
|    1 |  SP 101, 1st-Semester Spanish |
|   2 |  SP 102, 2nd-Semester Spanish |
|   3 |  SP 203, 3rd-Semester Spanish, or equivalent level course |
|   4 |  SP 206, 4th-Semester Spanish, or SP 208, Conversation in Spanish |
|   5 |  SP 310, Advanced Communication and Culture |
|   6 |  Advanced Electives (300 level) |

Students whose online and written placement results qualify them for **FR or SP 203 or above**have *met the second language proficiency requirement for B.A. degrees*. However, even students who have met the requirement are encouraged to consider continuing their study of French or Spanish at the level of their placement. Similarly, although B.S. students have no second language requirement, they are encouraged to consider continuing studying French or Spanish at the appropriate level.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are unable to provide a hand-written response due to a documented condition or disability that would impact your performance on or ability to complete this task, please contact Prof. Peter Vantine (pvantine@smcvt.edu) to make alternate arrangements.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT & GENERAL HELP

If you have technical difficulties or otherwise need assistance capturing your written response as a scanned image or digital photo, or uploading your digital file, please contact the [SMC IT Help Desk](https://smcvt.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/Home/Default.aspx?ToUrl=) through their website, via email (ithelp@smcvt.edu), or by phone (802-654-2020).

If you have other questions or concerns, please contact Prof. Peter Vantine (pvantine@smcvt.edu).

**\* \* \***

**APPENDIX: French / Spanish** **Resources for Review (Test Prep)**

FRENCH

If you wish to review your French before beginning the placement testing, here are a few useful resources:

* [Français interactif](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/) (UT-Austin): <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/>
* [Tex's French Grammar](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/): <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/>
* [French Verb Practice](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/vp/): <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/vp/>

You may *not*, however, use these or any other resources during the actual testing (for either an online or written exam).

SPANISH

If you wish to review your Spanish before beginning the placement testing, here are a few useful resources:

* [Spanish Grammar in Context](http://grammar.spanishintexas.org/) (UT-Austin): <http://grammar.spanishintexas.org>
* [Spanish Verb Practice](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/861104/pages/verbs): <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/861104/pages/verbs>

You may *not*, however, use these or any other resources during the actual testing (for either an online or written exam).