

College of Engineering Foreign Language Policy

While the College of Engineering does not have a foreign language requirement, certain majors may elect to include this as a requirement for the major. Additionally, students may elect to take foreign language courses to satisfy free elective credits and/or to pursue a minor. This policy outlines how a foreign language requirement can be satisfied and how retroactive credit can be applied in cases when a student places into a higher-level course based on the UIC placement test.

Foreign Language Requirement for majors that require a language sequence.

The basic requirement is proficiency in a language that has a recognized literature or culture. The level of proficiency must be the equivalent of that expected of the student who has completed the elementary levels of language study (i.e., the first year) at the University of Illinois Chicago. Students studying a foreign language at UIC are strongly encouraged to register for required language courses in consecutive semesters until the requirement is met. Students may satisfy the requirement in any one of several ways:

1. By presenting qualifying scores on Advanced Placement examinations in a foreign language, a qualifying score on a UIC foreign language placement test, appropriate course work as awarded per the State Seal of Biliteracy, or other authorized proficiency test for languages not offered at UIC.
2. By transferring credit for one year of a single language at the college level.
3. By completing two semesters of language courses at UIC. The University currently offers complete sequences in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Lithuanian, Modern Greek, Polish, Russian, and Spanish.
4. By completing a partial sequence of language courses as determined by the results of a placement test or placement by a language department. The college determines eligibility for credit in a recommended course.
5. By presenting evidence of secondary education completed in a country where the language of instruction was other than English. No elementary- or intermediate-level course or proficiency credit will be given for that language. The language requirement, however, will be considered fulfilled only if the student consults a dean for application of this rule and receives conditional approval.
6. By demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language via transferring credit for a full or partial sequence of approved courses from an accredited U.S. college or university, as determined by the results of a placement test or placement by a language department. Courses must include the study of deaf culture.

Retroactive Credits in Foreign Language

A student who has placed into the 104 or higher level of a foreign language taught at UIC as the result of the UIC administered placement tests may receive academic proficiency credits for prerequisite courses.

- Placement into the 104-level provides four hours of proficiency credit for the 103-level course if the student completes the 104-level course with a grade of “B or higher”.
- Placement into the final course in a heritage language sequence will provide four hours of credit for the prerequisite course if the student completes the course with a “B or higher”.
- Placement at the 200-level provides four hours of proficiency credit for the 103-level course and four hours of proficiency credit for the 104-level course if the student completes the 200-level course with a grade of “B or higher”. The same provision applies to heritage language course placement except that proficiency credit is awarded for the two previous prerequisite heritage courses.
- These credits are awarded only for courses taught at UIC and only based on new student placement test results for those with no prior college-level foreign language credits. Retroactive credit may be applied for a single student for more than one language sequence.
- Proficiency credits appear as “PS” on the transcript and are not calculated into the grade point average. Proficiency credit does not apply to placements based on AP or IB scores for which credits are applied in a prescribed manner. CLEP credits are not accepted for foreign language courses.
- Proficiency credit is not awarded for a 104-level course if a student has transfer, AP, or IB credit for a 103-level course, and then places into and receives an A or B in a 200-level course at UIC.
- Students are eligible for proficiency credits in a language that they have not previously earned credit in, even if they have previously taken course(s) in another foreign language. For example, if a student has earned credit in Polish, but now wants to study Chinese and places into CHIN 104, they could be eligible for proficiency credit in CHIN 103, if they take and pass CHIN 104 with a grade of “B or higher”.
- Native speakers of a foreign language, including international students, are eligible to earn retroactive foreign language credits.
- Students to whom this section applies must initiate the request for the credits by submitting a general petition to COE by using the online petition forms.