



# THE BEACON SCHOOL

## LOTE Requirements for College Admissions

The College Office reached out to many colleges with the following questions regarding language requirements in the admissions process and as part of colleges' graduation requirements.

1. *If your school requires more than one year of LOTE, is a waiver possible for any students?*
2. *If your school will grant a waiver, what are the requirements, steps and process?*
3. *Is there a specific diagnosis that a student needs in order to be eligible for this waiver?*
4. *If this impacts the student negatively in admissions, is there something they can do to compensate (i.e. doubling up on another subject)?*
5. *Does your college have a LOTE requirement once enrolled, and can that be waived?*

You will find the individual schools' responses below.

### **Allegheny College**

Happy to report that Allegheny does not have an entrance or graduation foreign language requirement. Meaning we don't require any specific years of high school foreign language, nor is a foreign language part of our general education curriculum. Anyone studying a foreign language at Allegheny wants to be studying that language.

### **American University**

- We do require 2 years of a foreign language, but if a student has been exempt from taking a foreign language from the high school, yes, we can waive that requirement.
- Generally, we will want something in writing from the school stating that the student has been exempt from taking a foreign language (this can be sent through email or mentioned in the letter of rec). This will not negatively impact the student in the admission process.
- Most majors do not require a foreign language (aside from International Studies). If the student's major does require a foreign language, in order to be exempt from taking the language, they would need to request a foreign language substitution as an accommodation through our Academic Support and Access Center. Generally, they would need to provide clinical documentation speaking to why they are not able to acquire another language.

### **Bard College**

- We have a recommendation (not requirement) for 3-4 years of foreign language (largely because we have a Foreign Languages and Foreign Cultures distribution requirement - see below), but are quite flexible with this in our evaluation for applicants.
- Since it's a recommendation and not a requirement, we do not have any specific documentation needs. It is helpful to know if/when a student has a waiver, so we can keep that context in mind when evaluating their transcript. If students aren't taking a foreign language class, we do like to see them fill the time with another interest.
- We do have a Foreign Languages and Foreign Cultures distribution requirement at Bard, which is part of why we have the recommendation in our admissions criteria. That said, students do not need to take a traditional foreign language course in order to satisfy this requirement. There are several literature and area studies courses taught in English that fulfill this distribution, and



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beginning in Fall 2022 we will begin offering American Sign Language courses that will also fulfill this requirement. We also encourage students with a need for accommodations to register formally with our Disability and Access Office, so that they can access support for having their learning needs met.

## **Bennington College**

- While Bennington does not expressly have a language requirement other than English, we do expect that students are challenging themselves with rigorous course choices throughout their high school years. That usually means taking a language class through the 3rd or 4th year. If a student has an FL waiver through their high school, they can let us know, but we do not grant waivers since it is not a requirement. Knowing that a student has a waiver from their high school is very helpful for us in the admissions process. We would still expect to see a student challenging themselves in other areas.
- We do not have a language requirement once enrolled. At Bennington each student designs a highly individualized course of study with a faculty committee of 3 professors. Requirements will be individualized based on the students interests and goals.

## **Beloit College**

- Beloit gives priority in the application process to students who have completed the most rigorous college preparatory curriculum available to them, which typically includes at least two years of a world language. However, we do not have any outright requirements and regularly admit students with no foreign language, 1 year of FL, or multiple years of FL in different languages.
- Being light in foreign language will negatively impact our assessment of the rigor of a student's curriculum, which has implications for both admission and merit scholarships. A brief explanation in a recommendation letter will address any concerns we have about why a student hasn't taken foreign languages. No particular diagnosis is necessary. However, in order for it not to impact their rigor ranking, ideally they would double up on another subject. The particular subject doesn't matter, but we expect our strongest applicants to be taking at least five core academic classes each year. Again, this is likely not "make or break" for a student's admission decision. We would have to have other serious concerns about a student's academic readiness. But it could move them down a merit scholarship tier if the above steps aren't taken.
- We have an "Intercultural Literacy" requirement that can be satisfied by classes in anthropology, international relations, and similar subjects in addition to languages.

## **Case Western Reserve**

While we have a 2 year foreign language recommendation, we have the discretion to waive in individual cases. There is no need to submit any kind of documentation. We do not require foreign language outside of specific programs (language majors!, international studies, etc).

## **Champlain College**

Champlain College does not require a language for admission to our undergraduate programs. If the student's high school has a language requirement that the student did not meet, we would want to connect with the student or look for an explanation/accommodation that allows that student to



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graduate without meeting a high school requirement. Overall, as long as the student is meeting their high school requirements they do not need to complete a language for admissions.

## **Cornell University**

For us, it really depends on the individual college/school because they all have slightly different admission requirements.

## **Grinnell College**

- Grinnell does not have any required curriculum for admission, but we do have recommendations, and the recommendation is three years of a foreign language. But! If a student takes Spanish 3 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade (because they had two years of Spanish in middle school), that would meet our recommendation. So essentially we prefer to see three years of language study, total, not necessarily in high school.
- If a student hasn't studied a foreign language for three years, it is best if we know why – this can come from the student in additional information or from a recommendation letter.
- There is no core curriculum, no gen ed requirements here at Grinnell!

## **Goucher College**

While Goucher recommends 2 years of foreign language, it is not a requirement, so students with IEPs would not be at any disadvantage. We do hope that without the additional foreign language courses students would choose to take additional academic electives in a subject that interests them. Goucher does have a foreign language requirement once enrolled, usually two semesters, and it is possible for students to have that waived and instead complete culture courses.

## **Mount Holyoke College**

- For admission purposes, Mount Holyoke does not have a language requirement. We have a holistic review process. We like to see the student has pursued rigor to the extent they can and within the context of what is available. We like to see a full schedule, but they can decide how to stack up their courses and which areas to focus on.
- We require one semester of language as part of our graduation requirements. We do have a waiver and exemption process for this requirement.

## **Oberlin College**

- Oberlin recommends 3 years of the same foreign language. However, if Beacon provides a waiver for a student, Oberlin honors that waiver. It is helpful for a student to let us know in the application that they have been granted a waiver (perhaps in the additional information section or in a recommendation letter).
- In our competitive admissions process, we look at the rigor of a student's curriculum (in addition to grades). We consider foreign language to be a core academic subject. So if a student is not taking a foreign language, our hope is that they are pursuing an academic course in lieu of that (but we don't have a preference as to what subject that is).
- Oberlin does not have a foreign language requirement for our enrolled students.



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## Occidental

- We typically prefer 3 years of foreign language in high school, but this is not a hard and fast rule. Many students are admitted with just 1-2 years of foreign language. We don't see a lot of students who waive it, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't consider them.
- We would need information from the school (in a letter of recommendation, additional statement for the student, etc.). It's always best practice to keep a schedule filled with academic subjects rather than study periods/non-academic courses. Five academic courses/year is what we are looking for.
- We have one year of foreign language requirements, but there are different ways to get a waiver.

## Sarah Lawrence College

We do not have a language requirement in order to be considered for admission, nor do we have a language requirement for students who enroll at the college. Our application process somewhat mirrors that of our educational offerings in which SLC students craft their own program of study. We are holistic in our application review and consider all context when making a decision.

## Scripps College

- Our official foreign language requirement is to get through the minimum of the third year of a language (so if a student took Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they would have satisfied our recommendation by taking through Spanish III in 10<sup>th</sup> grade - not all years have to be taken in 9-12). In lieu of that, we're also ok with students taking two years of two different languages.
- We don't really have an official waiver of this. For one thing, it's not really a requirement, it's a recommendation (but one we stick to pretty closely, to be honest). But it's all really dependent on circumstances. If you or the student talk about the IEP, we'll take that into context while reviewing a student's file. I haven't really come across this, so I can't say how it would all play out in the process. I would say that I'd still like to see a student taking five solids, so doubling up in another area would be wise so we can ensure that a student can keep up in a full course load.
- I'm not sure about waivers for our foreign language requirement upon enrolling - we do require that students either take or test out of the equivalent of three semesters of a language. If a student speaks a different language than we offer, the registrar's office works to find a faculty member who speaks the language to essentially test them out of it. But if a student doesn't speak another language and has never taken a language course...I don't know how that works because it is a graduation requirement. That would be a question for our registrar's office if a student got that far in our process.

## Smith College

Generally speaking, Smith would like to see that students have taken 4 years of foreign language. It is not a requirement for admission, though our most competitive applicants have taken foreign language. If a student has an IEP that exempts them from taking foreign language, we do not penalize a student for not taking it. It is helpful in the application process that the IEP exemption be mentioned by either the student or in a recommendation so that we are reading the application in its proper context. Smith does not have a foreign language requirement (we have an open curriculum).



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## **SUNY New Paltz**

We are the most lenient with regard to the foreign language requirement. If they meet the 4 years of English, 3 years of science, 3 years of math and 2-4 years of a social science and the grades are in the appropriate range, then we will be lenient for the foreign language. However, we do have a foreign language requirement once the student begins college. That is required for each student.

## **SUNY Stony Brook**

- If the student meets all requirements to graduate from a NYS high school with a Regents diploma or above, earn consideration from SBU. There is no mandate of a foreign language, and while we do like to see a student complete a foreign language in high school, it would not be a reason to exclude a student from consideration.
- Only one year, or 2 semesters of a foreign language is required once enrolled. Because of the increasing globalization of culture, society, and the economy, every student in the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and the School of Communication and Journalism must demonstrate a certain level of foreign language proficiency to graduate from Stony Brook (LANG requirement). There are exemptions a student can apply for.

## **University of Rochester**

Rochester does not have a foreign language requirement for admission as a first-year student or as a transfer. We also do not have any foreign language requirement for undergrads as part of their graduation requirements.

## **University of Vermont**

- We do require at least two years (recommend three or more to be competitive), but will consider if there have been challenges to the student completing (example: Learning Differences, international students coming to the states during HS).
- We won't formally grant a waiver, but we will consider it in our application process. The student can call it to our attention or it can be discussed in a letter of recommendation. It should be highlighted in some form however as otherwise, we have to assume that the student chose not to take it (if not a requirement for HS graduation).
- Adding another core subject is always to the student's advantage, FL requirement or not. We want to see the students challenging themselves where they can.
- Each UVM school or college will have its own requirements based on the program, and prospective students can check in with potential departments about waivers. Admissions can help facilitate that, and for any student with an LD they should be in touch with Accessibility Services to ensure that they will have access to any necessary resources.