

## MLLI POLICY: FOREIGN LANGUAGE 201-LEVEL PROFICIENCY EQUIVALENCY\*

Students at UMBC cannot receive academic credit simply for speaking their native (or a second) language, and knowing a second language is not sufficient in itself to satisfy the 201-level proficiency requirement. Students can receive the equivalency for 201 level proficiency to fulfill the GEP language requirement or the language component of the GDR, GER, or GFR by

- a) demonstrating successfully-completed education in a second language or
- b) through examination.

The equivalency application does not grant credits but rather recognizes completion of the L201 requirement. See details below.

1. International students and U.S. resident students proficient in a language other than English may receive equivalency for the 201-level proficiency requirement provided that they present documentation showing that:
  - a) they attended a secondary school (i.e., sixth grade or above) in which the language of instruction was not only English, or
  - b) they attended an English-speaking secondary school or a comprehensive bi or multi-lingual program accredited by a foreign government and have at least one year of successfully-completed education in a language other than English at that level. After-school and weekend programs in the United States do not satisfy this requirement.
2. Students who study a second language abroad (for example, a native speaker of English who is requesting 201-level equivalency in German based on secondary school courses) are subject to the same requirements as students coming from American high schools. See <http://mlli.umbc.edu/l201-proficiency-and-high-school-language-levels/>
3. Students who wish to apply for 201-level equivalency must submit an online application via <https://goo.gl/forms/MWc5SeAeEILkdkG2>.

This application must be accompanied by a **transcript from the secondary school or university** where the student studied abroad, attesting to formal study as described above in the language in which he/she is claiming proficiency. Depending on the language of the transcript, students **may be asked** to furnish a certified translation. Further information may be obtained in the MLLI Office.

4. Students proficient in French, German, or Spanish may receive equivalency for the 201-level proficiency requirement upon presentation of proof of the successful completion of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam at Level II in one of these languages. See Appendix II of the Undergraduate Catalog:

<https://catalog.umbc.edu/content.php?catoid=31&navoid=2094>

5. Students proficient in a language other than English may receive equivalency for the 201-level proficiency requirement through:

- a) Showing official documentation of having obtained a Seal of Biliteracy in high school, or
- b) Showing official documentation of having obtained achievement on the following exams:
  - a. by receiving at least 10 points on the 12 points New York University Foreign Language Proficiency Examination, or
  - b. by achieving “novice-high” ranking on the Penn Language Center Proficiency Test, or
  - c. by achieving a novice -high score in the Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) AND one of the Oral Proficiency Interviews (either OPI or OPIc) conferred by Language Testing International LTI/ACTFL. If both tests are not offered for your language, please visit Fine Arts 463, call 410-455-2109, or email [good@umbc.edu](mailto:good@umbc.edu) for further information.

Students must make arrangements independently for these exams; the MLLI department does not administer them. UMBC does not accept credits from these exams. To find out which languages are included and for further information, contact the following:

- Language Testing International ACTFL:  
<https://www.languagetesting.com/certifications-tests/test-information>
- NYU exam: Center for Languages and Translation at NYUSPS Foreign Language, Translation, and Interpreting, 838 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10003, phone: 212-998-7030. See information here:  
<https://www.sps.nyu.edu/professional-pathways/search.html?keyword=proficiency%20exams>
- U Penn Exam: PENN LANGUAGE CENTER | 715-716 Williams Hall | University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305 Phone: (215) 898-6039 | Fax: (215) 573-2139 | [plc@ccat.sas.upenn.edu](mailto:plc@ccat.sas.upenn.edu)  
See information here:  
<https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/services/languageproficiencytesting/nonpenn>

*\*Please note that 201 proficiency constitutes only a portion of the Language/Culture component of the GDR, GER, and GFR requirements. See the UMBC catalog for description of general education requirements*

Revised 11/07/2022