

From: Doug Daley
Chair, Committee on Curriculum
Date: April 11, 2014
Re: Satisfaction of GER requirements – Foreign Language

The Committee on Curriculum is reviewing a proposal to increase the number of opportunities for ESF students to satisfy General Education Requirements (GER). Under current SUNY policy, students must complete 30 credit hours of course work in seven of ten general education areas. Foreign Language is one of those ten areas. Since SUNY ESF does not offer any foreign language courses, the proposal seeks to recognize foreign language courses at Syracuse University as meeting the GER. Since the College has an Accessory Instruction policy to limit the number of Syracuse University credits that a student can take, this approach provides a balance amongst the SUNY GER, program needs and student demand for an expanded repertoire of General Education elective courses. Additionally, recognition of foreign language courses improves student transferability amongst SUNY institutions and reduces paperwork associated with petitions.

The courses in the attached file were identified based on the SUNY GER for Foreign Language (follows). A review of offerings at other SUNY institutions revealed similar offerings have been approved.

9. FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students will demonstrate:

- basic proficiency in the understanding and use of a foreign language; and
- knowledge of the distinctive features of culture(s) associated with the language they are studying.

The first college semester, or above, of a foreign language constitutes an approvable course in this category.

It is acknowledged that campuses have widely differing practices and available resources for the assessment of foreign language preparation. Previously acquired language competence may be determined by a standard measure selected or developed by the relevant faculty and should demonstrate the student's readiness to enter the second college semester of foreign language study. In the case of the Regents Exam, this would mean passing Checkpoint B with a score of 85 or above. Use of the Regents Exam for this purpose is at the discretion of the campus. Many campuses have, and are encouraged to have, language requirements that go beyond the minimum established by the Board resolution.

American Sign Language may be used to satisfy this category only by students in the following programs:

- *programs leading to certification in elementary and secondary education;*
- *programs leading to careers where there is likely to be significant contact with the hearing impaired.*