

Undergraduate Degree and Graduation Information

Bachelor of Arts Requirement Using a Second Language

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree at NDSU signifies completion of a major and functional proficiency in a second language, typically demonstrated through at least the intermediate level. This requirement emphasizes practical language skills and a comparative cultural perspective, preparing students for an internationalized world. Proficiency is assessed continuously across speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension.

To fulfill the B.A. language requirement a student must demonstrate competence equivalent to that normally attained after four semesters of college study (NDSU level 202). Competency may be demonstrated in the following ways:

1. Completion of SPAN 202 with a grade of 'C' or better. Note that this requirement cannot be fulfilled by coursework taken pass/fail.
2. For students having previously passed the CLEP Examination (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/credit-by-examination/#newitemtext>) in French, German or Spanish with a CLEP score high enough for second-year college credit (59 in French, 60 in German and 63 in Spanish) or the AP exam (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/credit-by-examination/#apexamtext>) with a minimum score of 4 in French, German or Spanish, taking one additional college-level language class at the equivalent of the 202 level or higher in order to demonstrate competency in all four skill levels. Official score reports and/or transcripts must be submitted to the Office of Registration and Records.
3. English satisfies the B.A. language requirement for students whose official, certified transcripts demonstrate that their secondary or higher education was completed in a language other than English. It is the responsibility of the student to provide all necessary untranslated, official documentation to the School of Humanities (<https://www.ndsu.edu/schoolofhumanities/>) for verification. No credit will be awarded. To apply this to degree completion, the School of Humanities would complete and submit a waiver form to the Office of Registration and Records.
4. Students who are unable to provide the documentation mentioned above but who are native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the second language requirement through proficiency in English by successful completion of the three-semester General Education English composition sequence and by passing an additional English (ENGL) course with a 'C' or better. Students having completed this sequence may apply to the School of Humanities for a waiver of the Second Language requirement. To apply this to degree completion, the School of Humanities would complete and submit a waiver form to the Office of Registration and Records.
5. Requests for determination of proficiency in languages not taught at NDSU are considered by the School of Humanities. If a student would like to demonstrate proficiency through testing in a language that is not taught at NDSU, it is his/her responsibility to arrange for such testing. The proficiency test must be completed by a faculty or staff member at a college or university; the evaluator must hold at least a master's degree (in any discipline). The test must evaluate reading, writing, listening and speaking through the fourth semester (intermediate NDSU 202) college level. The student must provide documentation from the evaluator which includes a copy of the test, a letter from the evaluator assessing the level of proficiency, and a statement of the evaluator's credentials, including an explanation of his/her expertise in the language being tested, if the evaluator does not teach that language at the college level. No credit is awarded but proficiency requirement is fulfilled.