General Education Policy Proposals – Second Language | Effective Fall 2026

General Education Policy Proposals – Second Language | Effective Fall 2026

Overview	**Guiding Principles**
	• General Education requirements should be the same across all undergraduate degrees.
	• A change of major should not lead to the "uncompletion" of a previously completed degree requirement.
	• Reduce the complexity of curriculum to better support students navigating their degree programs.
	Foundations Second Language
	• Recommendations based on the work of the Second Language Taskforce.
	• Splits requirement into two policies: *General Education Foundations*, to ensure consistency of General Education requirements regardless of degree program and *Second Language Requirement for Bachelor of Arts Degrees*.
	• Expands options for students in BA programs by allowing for the completion of two languages.
	• Codifies the method of review that had been previously limited to the College of Engineering and accommodates requests from colleges to have the same considerations.
	• Removes limitation requiring a C or better for the final course in the language sequence.
	• Identifies additional methods of satisfying the requirement, including Study Abroad and multilingual learning experiences (example: ITEP).

Policy Sponsor	Greg Heileman, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs

Responsible Unit	Undergraduate Education | General Education	URL	https://undergraduate.arizona.edu/ | https://ge.arizona.edu

Career Applicability	☒ Undergraduate ☐ Graduate ☐ Law ☐ Medicine ☐ Pharmacy ☐ Veterinary Medicine

Approvals Granted (for council use only)	University-Wide GE Committee	Scheduled: 8/20/2025, 9/3/2025, 9/17/2025	Status: Did not gain approval 9/17/25
	UGC Policies Subcommittee	Scheduled: 9/9/2025	Status: Did not gain approval 9/9/25
	Undergraduate Council	Scheduled: 2/3/26	Status:
	Undergraduate CAAC	Scheduled: 1/27/26	Status: Approved 1/27/26
	Faculty Senate Executive Committee	Scheduled:	Status:

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	Faculty Senate	Scheduled:	Status:
	Provost	Scheduled:	Status:

Policy List & Proposed Actions

Policy	URL	Proposed Action
General Education Foundations	https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/program-graduation/general-education/foundations (approved updates for the 26-27 catalog year found at https://catalog.arizona.edu/resources/approved-general-education-updates-2026-2027#general-education-foundations1)	• Combine separate second language foundations policy into overall GE Foundations policy • Relocate second language requirements for Bachelor of Arts degrees into new University-level policy • Students may satisfy the second-semester proficiency language requirement with high school coursework • Completion pathways added/clarified for study abroad, multilingual learning experiences, international students, and those with seal of biliteracy

General Education Foundations - Second Language Requirement (Policy Inactivation)	https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/program-graduation/general-education/foundations#second-language-requirement-for-undergraduate-degrees	• Streamline Foundations second language requirement to second-semester proficiency for all students
		• Add provision that students may satisfy the foundations requirement with high school coursework in a 2nd language (2 years of high school satisfies the General Education second language requirement)
		• Create additional pathways for satisfying second language requirement:
		   ○ International Admissions
		   ○ Seal of Biliteracy
		   ○ Study Abroad & multilingual experience

Second Language Requirement for Bachelor of Arts Degrees (New)		• Create a second-language requirement for B.A. students, outside of General Education • Students may satisfy the B.A. requirement with either 2nd semester proficiency in two separate second languages, or 4th semester proficiency in one second language

General Education Foundations | Second Language

General Education Foundations

Policy	URL	Proposed Action
General Education Foundations	https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/program-graduation/general-education/foundations (approved updates for the 26-27 catalog year found at https://catalog.arizona.edu/resources/approved-general-education-updates-2026-2027#general-education-foundations1)	• Combine separate second language requirement policy into overall foundations policy • Relocate second language requirements for BA degrees into new policy • Students may satisfy the second-semester proficiency language requirement with high school coursework • Completion pathways added/clarified for study abroad, multilingual learning experiences, international students, and those with seal of biliteracy

Policy Revision Side by Side

Additions in <mark style="background:green">Green</mark> – Deletions in <mark style="background:yellow">~~Yellow~~</mark>

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
General Education Foundations The Foundations component of the General Education Curriculum builds competency in writing, mathematics, and second language skills that can be further developed in General Education courses, and in the major and minor. All courses that satisfy foundations requirements are approved by the University-Wide General Education Committee after consultation of the academic discipline. **Mathematics Requirement**	**General Education Foundations** The Foundations component of the General Education Curriculum builds competency in writing, mathematics, and second language skills that can be further developed in General Education courses, and in the major and minor. All courses that satisfy foundations requirements are approved by the University-Wide General Education Committee after consultation of the academic discipline. **Mathematics Requirement**

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Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
All students, as part of their General Education requirements, are expected to demonstrate mathematical knowledge and quantitative reasoning. Students must complete one approved course of 3 units or more denoted in the course catalog as satisfying Foundations Mathematics.	All students, as part of their General Education requirements, are expected to demonstrate mathematical knowledge and quantitative reasoning. Students must complete one approved course of 3 units or more denoted in the course catalog as satisfying Foundations Mathematics.
Additional mathematics courses may be required in a student's program of study or as prerequisite requirements for coursework. Students should consult with their major **advisor** before selecting a general education mathematics course.	Additional mathematics courses may be required in a student's program of study or as prerequisite requirements for coursework. Students should consult with their major **advisor** before selecting a general education mathematics course.
Writing Requirement	**Writing Requirement**
The General Education Writing Requirement ensures that all University of Arizona students develop strong writing skills. Effective communication is essential for academic success and professional growth.	The General Education Writing Requirement ensures that all University of Arizona students develop strong writing skills. Effective communication is essential for academic success and professional growth.
To fulfill this requirement, students complete designated writing courses as offered by the Writing Program.	To fulfill this requirement, students complete designated writing courses as offered by the Writing Program.
The University Writing Requirement also includes the completion of at least one Writing Emphasis Course in the major.	The University Writing Requirement also includes the completion of at least one Writing Emphasis Course in the major.
Writing Course Options	**Writing Course Options**
The course sequence required is determined by the Foundations Writing Evaluation.	The course sequence required is determined by the Foundations Writing Evaluation.
Two Course Sequence	**Two Course Sequence**
1. Writing 101 or 101A or 107 2. Writing 102 or 108	1. Writing 101 or 101A or 107 2. Writing 102 or 108

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit

One Course
 	
1. Writing 109H* or Writing 305
 	
* a grade of C or higher is required in Writing 109H to satisfy the requirement with this course.
 	
Three Course Sequence
 	
1. Writing 106
2. Writing 107**
3. Writing 108**
 	
**upon recommendation of the Writing Program students who complete Writing 106 may take:
 	
    o Writing 101 or 101A instead of Writing 107
    o Writing 102 instead of Writing 108
 	
Second Language Requirement ~~for Undergraduate Degrees~~
 	
~~Students are also required to complete the **Second Language Requirement for Undergraduate Degrees**.~~
	One Course
	
	1. Writing 109H* or Writing 305
	
	* a grade of C or higher is required in Writing 109H to satisfy the requirement with this course.
	
	Three Course Sequence
	
	1. Writing 106
	2. Writing 107**
	3. Writing 108**
	
	**upon recommendation of the Writing Program students who complete Writing 106 may take:
	
	    o Writing 101 or 101A instead of Writing 107
	    o Writing 102 instead of Writing 108
	
	Second Language Requirement
	
	All degree-seeking undergraduate students are required to demonstrate second-semester competency in a second language or participate in an equivalent approved multilingual experience.
	
	Students in B.A. degree programs should consult the Second Language Requirements for Bachelor of Arts Degrees (link) policy for additional requirements.
	
	Ways to Satisfy the Requirement
	
	| Pathway
		Details	

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Existing Policy	Proposed Edit	
	Course Completion	Successful completion of second language coursework at the post-secondary level. One year of coursework taken in a second language at the high school level will be considered the equivalent of one semester at the post-secondary level. Note: High school coursework cannot be used to determine placement. To enroll in language courses beyond the 1st semester level, students without post-secondary language credit must take a placement exam.
	Proficiency Exam	Scoring at a second-semester language proficiency or higher on a proctored examination administered by the University of Arizona.
	Credit by Exam	Obtain the minimum language proficiency score as listed in the following Credit by Exam policies: **AP** (Advanced Placement), **CIE** (Cambridge International Examination Program), **CLEP** (College-Level Entrance Program), **IB** (International Baccalaureate).

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit	
	Seal of Biliteracy	Students who earned a [Seal of Biliteracy](#) have fulfilled the requirement.
	Approved University Sponsored Study Abroad & Multilingual Learning Experiences	• A Study Abroad program approved to satisfy the requirement, or • A university-sponsored learning experience approved to satisfy the requirement.
	International Admission	Students whose prior education was taught in a language other than English and who had to prove [English proficiency](#) to be admitted to the University have satisfied the requirement.

Students in need of accommodation may review the [Substitutions for General Education and University Level Requirement Courses](#) policy.

Credit will not be awarded for language courses equivalent to, or at a lower level than, elementary or intermediate language courses for which the student has already earned credit (i.e., University Credit, transfer credit, or credit by exam).

Second Language

Second Language Requirement for Undergraduate Degrees

Policy	URL	Proposed Action
General Education Foundations - Second Language Requirement (Policy Inactivation)	https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/program-graduation/general-education/foundations#second-language-requirement-for-undergraduate-degrees	• Streamline Foundations second language requirement to second semester proficiency for all students • Add provision that students may satisfy the foundations requirement with high school coursework in a 2nd language (2 years of high school satisfies the General Education second language requirement)

Policy Revision Side by Side

Additions in Green – Deletions in Yellow

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit

Second Language Requirement for Undergraduate Degrees
 	
Second language requirements vary depending on whether you are in a B.A or a non-B.A degree program.
 	
For all students in B.A. degree programs: fourth-semester skill level in a second language is required. B.A. degree students may fulfill this requirement with one of the following options:
 	
  1. Scoring the equivalent of fourth-semester skill level on a proctored proficiency examination administered by The University of Arizona.
  2. Completion with a C or better of a fourth-semester course at the post-secondary level.
	This section intentionally left blank; this policy to be inactivated & pertinent information will be incorporated in the General Education Foundations policy.

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Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
3. Completion with a C or higher of a 300- or 400-level language course at the post-secondary level. 4. Completion of one course beyond the third semester in combination with an **AP** (Advanced Placement) score, **IB** (International Baccalaureate) score or a **CLEP** (College Level Entrance Program) score determined by the individual language department. 5. An AP, IB, or CLEP language score as listed below.	

EXAMINATION	AP SCORE	IB SCORE	CLEP SCORE
Chinese	5	7	--
French	3 or higher	7	66 or higher
German	3 or higher	7	60 or higher
Italian	3 or higher	--	--
Japanese	5	7	--
Latin (Classical Language)	5 or higher	7	--
Spanish	3 or higher	7	68 or higher

6. A minimum of one semester study abroad in a language program approved by the appropriate language department as the equivalent of fourth-semester skill level.

For all students in non-B.A. degree programs: second-semester skill level in a second language is required. Non-B.A. degree students may fulfill this requirement with one of the following options:

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
 1. Scoring ~~the equivalent of~~ second-semester ~~skill level~~ on a proctored ~~proficiency~~ examination administered by The University of Arizona. 2. Completion ~~with a C or better~~ of ~~a~~ second-~~semester~~ course at the post-secondary level. 3. An **AP** (Advanced Placement), **IB** (International Baccalaureate) or **CLEP** (College Level Entrance Program) ~~language score as listed below.~~	

~~EXAMINATION~~	~~AP SCORE~~	~~IB SCORE~~	~~CLEP SCORE~~
~~Chinese~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~--~~
~~French~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~55 or higher~~
~~German~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~46 or higher~~
~~Italian~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~--~~	~~--~~
~~Japanese~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~--~~
~~Latin (Classical Language)~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~--~~
~~Spanish~~	~~3 or higher~~	~~5~~	~~55 or higher~~

4. ~~In the College of Engineering by a method determined within the College; however, all students in the college must also take a language placement examination on entrance to the University.~~

~~Note:~~ Credit will not be awarded for language courses equivalent to, or at a lower level than, elementary or intermediate language courses for which the student has already earned credit (i.e., University Credit, transfer credit, or credit by exam). ~~This policy applies to languages offered by the College of Education (i.e., American Sign Language), College of Humanities (i.e., Chinese, Critical Languages, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, Russian,~~

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
~~Spanish), and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (i.e., Arabic, Hebrew, Navajo, O'Odham, Persian, Turkish).~~ ~~U.S. students who are speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department.~~ ~~International~~ students whose ~~primary~~ language ~~is not~~ English and who had to prove English proficiency to be admitted to the University have ~~thereby fulfilled~~ the ~~Second Language~~ requirement. ~~All questions about language proficiency exams should be directed to the department that will evaluate proficiency. If you want to be tested in a language that is not taught by a University department, contact:~~ ~~**Department of Linguistics**~~ ~~Douglass Building, Room 200E~~ ~~The University of Arizona~~ ~~PO Box 210028~~ ~~Tucson, AZ 85721-0028~~ ~~Phone: (520) 621-6897~~ ~~Fax: (520) 626-9014~~	

Second Language Requirement for B.A. Degrees

Policy	URL	Proposed Action
Second Language Requirement for Bachelor of Arts Degrees (New)	N/A	• Create a second-language requirement for BA students, outside of General Education • Students may satisfy the BA requirement with either 2nd semester proficiency in two separate second languages, or 4th semester proficiency in one second language

Policy Revision Side by Side

Additions in Green – Deletions in ~~Yellow~~

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
This section intentionally left blank; this is a new proposed policy.	**Second Language Requirement for Bachelor of Arts Degrees** Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree are required to demonstrate fourth-semester competency in a single second language, or second-semester competency in two different second languages. The General Education Foundations Second Language requirement accounts for one half of this requirement. • Students who have satisfied the General Education second language requirement using AGEC/IGETC/CSU GE or a completed Bachelor's degree (see Undergraduate Transfer Credit) may satisfy the Bachelor of Arts second language requirement by demonstrating second-semester proficiency in any second language. **Ways to Satisfy the Requirement (once Foundations Second Language requirement is satisfied)**
	Pathway ___ **Details**

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Existing Policy	Proposed Edit	
	Course Completion	Successful completion of second language coursework at the post-secondary level. • 4th semester coursework in any second language, or • 2nd semester coursework in a second language other than that used to satisfy the [Foundations Second Language](#) requirement Note: High school coursework cannot be used to determine placement. To enroll in language courses beyond the 1st semester level, students without post-secondary language credit must take a placement exam.
	Proficiency Exam	Scoring at the appropriate proficiency level in a proctored examination administered by the University of Arizona. • 4th semester or higher in any second language, or • 2nd semester or higher in a second language other than that used to satisfy

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
	the Foundations Second Language requirement
Credit by Exam	Obtain the minimum language proficiency score as listed in the following Credit by Exam policies: **AP** (Advanced Placement), **CIE** (Cambridge International Examination Program), **CLEP** (College-Level Entrance Program), **IB** (International Baccalaureate). • 4th semester proficiency in any second language, or • 2nd semester proficiency in a second language other than that used to satisfy the Foundations Second Language requirement
Seal of Biliteracy	Students who earned a **Seal of Biliteracy** have fulfilled the requirement.
Approved University Sponsored Study Abroad or Multilingual Learning Experiences	• A Study Abroad program approved to satisfy the requirement, or • A university-sponsored learning experience approved to satisfy the requirement.

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit

International Admission	Students whose prior education was taught in a language other than English and who had to prove English proficiency to be admitted to the University have satisfied the requirement.

Students in need of accommodation may review the Substitutions for General Education and University Level Requirement Courses policy.

Credit will not be awarded for language courses equivalent to, or at a lower level than, elementary or intermediate language courses for which the student has already earned credit (i.e., University Credit, transfer credit, or credit by exam).