

Fall 2025 New Student Orientation Program (NSOP)

Spanish Language Placement Exam Information

Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University

We look forward to having you in our courses and in our department.

Our placement exams help us determine the course that best matches your current abilities. These exams are supplemented by your instructor's evaluation during the first and second weeks of classes, during which they may recommend a change in your registration.

You must take one of our two (2) online placement exams before registering for a course or joining a waiting list. Alternatively, you may submit proof of exemption if you earned an eligible score on one of the exams listed [here](#) during high school.

You may take the online Spanish language placement exams at any time using your Columbia email address by visiting [this webpage](#).

Which of the two (2) online placement exams should I take?

If you have been exposed to Spanish—even to a very small extent—at home or in your community from an early age, please take the Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam, described below. All other students should take the Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam.

>About the Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam

Part I:

Take the online Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam from [this webpage](#) using your Columbia email address. This exam consists of multiple-choice questions on vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. There are no speaking, listening, or writing components.

After completing the exam, you will immediately receive your score and the recommended Spanish language course. If you score above 625, you are eligible for exemption from the language requirement and must proceed to Part II.

Information about placement scores and corresponding courses is available on [this webpage](#).

Part II:

If you score above 625 on Part I, you qualify for a possible exemption from the language requirement. Part II is identical in format to Part I and will be offered in person at Columbia's Language Resource Center (Room 352, International Affairs Building) during the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP). Information on dates and times can be found [here](#).

>About the Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam

Part I:

The Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam includes:

- Writing tasks
- Multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank items covering your exposure to the language, grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension
- A short listening/dictation section
(*There is no speaking section in Part I.*)

Dr. Francisca Aguiló Mora will contact you with your placement result and the course you should register for. If your score qualifies you for a possible exemption, she will invite you to complete Part II.

Part II:

If your score on Part I qualifies you for possible exemption, Dr. Aguiló Mora will contact you to schedule Part II, which includes:

- A writing task
- An oral/speaking component

The two (2) Spanish as a Heritage Language courses are:

- *Spanish UN1108 – Elementary Spanish for Heritage Speakers*
- *Spanish UN2108 – Intermediate Spanish for Heritage Speakers*

More Information:

<https://laic.columbia.edu/content/language-requirement-spanish-portuguese-and-catalan>
<https://laic.columbia.edu/content/language-placement-examination>

Questions?

Please feel free to contact Francisca Aguiló Mora at fa2443@columbia.edu.