

Prior Language Learning Credit
Department of Languages and Cultures
Utah Valley University
Revised Fall 2021

DEFINITIONS

Experiential/Challenge credit: Credit awarded to individuals who can prove through appropriate assessment and/or documentation that they have already acquired the equivalent knowledge and/or expertise required for successful completion of a given course.

Dominant Language: The language in which a person who uses more than one language has greatest control or proficiency. This is usually although not necessarily the earliest language learned nor the language in which the individual received formal education.

Non-dominant Language: Any language that is not the dominant language of a person who uses more than one language.

Language Dominance Determination: The decision as to which language counts as a dominant and which language(s) count as non-dominant language. This decision is made by the student and becomes official for the purposes here when an administrative action such as purchasing credit is done based on that decision.

Credit for Prior Language Learning Offerings

The Department of Languages and Cultures offers language credit to students whose non-dominant language is a language other than English. Students seeking credit for prior language learning from the Department of Languages and Cultures should follow the steps below.

Note: Students may not take 1000- or 2000-level language courses in their dominant language, nor may they purchase credit for those courses or get them through testing procedures.

The Department of English Language Learning (ELL) offers language credit to students whose non-dominant language is English. Contact the ELL department chair for options and arrangements (<https://www.uvu.edu/ell/>).

PROCEDURES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Step One: Contact an Advisor for the Department of Languages and Cultures

Regardless of your major, contact the advisors here:

<https://www.uvu.edu/lang/advisors.html>. These Languages and Cultures Advisors will help students in the following ways:

- Determining which language is your dominant and which is/are non-dominant language(s).
- Walk you through the “Eligibility and Types of Credit” to determine which



options for getting credit for prior learning is best for each unique circumstance.

- If you have satisfied requirements to purchase credit, they will process the credit purchase transaction.
- If you need to take a course before purchasing credit, the advisors will provide information about how to get an evaluation for placement at appropriate course levels.

Step Two (if necessary): Determine placement

The Program Coordinators for each language in the Department of Languages and Cultures evaluate students to determine placement based on their language skills and cultural aptitude regardless of the context in which the language was acquired.

ELIGIBILITY AND TYPES OF CREDIT

1. Students must be eligible to register for class at UVU in order to purchase credits.
2. **Ungraded Credit for Non-English Languages Taught at UVU.** Students who complete a UVU language course can purchase credit in many courses below that level. The table below shows which courses are available for purchase upon completion of a higher course.

Course completed with a C-grade or better	Courses available for purchase
1020	1010
2010	1010, 1020
202G	1010, 1020, 2010
203G (Spanish only)	1010, 1020, 2010, 202G**
Any 3000+ course taught in the target language	1010, 1020, 2010, 202G**
**When credit is purchased, 202G fulfills the Humanities Distribution Requirement, but does not fulfill the Global Intercultural Requirement. G credit cannot be purchased.	

3. **Ungraded Credit for Non-English Languages NOT Taught at UVU.** Students who seek credit in languages not taught at UVU should take a language test from an accredited institution. Most commonly this is the BYU FLATS Test, but we do accept results from other tests). Various tests offer different amounts of credit. Consult with the advisors from the Department of Languages and Cultures to determine the amount of credit available.
4. **Graded Credit for Non-English Languages Taught at UVU.** Students whose non-dominant language is taught at UVU and who desire letter-grade credit may enroll in the 1010 and 1020 classes and take only the course final examination at the end of the semester. The grade on the examination will be the grade for the course. Full tuition will be paid for the courses. This option is not available for 2010 and 202G. *This must be arranged through the advisors for the Department of Languages and Cultures at the time of registration; not every section is available.**

5. **AP Credit.** Students seeking Advanced Placement credit should consult with the Transfer Credit Office for course credit equivalents. (<https://www.uvu.edu/transfer/docs/ap21.pdf>)
6. **Dual Immersion Credit.** Students enrolled in Dual Language Immersion Bridge Courses are awarded credit based on their AP test scores and completed Bridge courses.

REFERENCES

University Policy 522, Undergraduate Credit and Transcripts, Section 5.1 “Language Credit for Prior Learning.”

University Policy 525, Credit for Prior Learning

UVU Catalog, “College Credit,” Subheading 4, “Language Challenge Credit”