

Pennsylvania Statewide Transfer and Articulation System Uniform Standards for Credit for Prior Learning Exams

Language Exams

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Uniform Standard Minimum Scores for Awarding Academic Credit	2
Languages.....	3
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	3
AP French Language and Culture	3
AP Spanish Language and Culture.....	3
AP German Language and Culture.....	4
College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams.....	4
CLEP French Languages: Levels 1 and 2	4
CLEP Spanish Languages: Levels 1 and 2	5
CLEP German Languages: Levels 1 and 2	5
International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams	6
IB FRENCH B HL.....	6
IB GERMAN B HL	6
IB Greek (Ancient Greek) HL	7
IB ITALIAN B.....	7
IB LATIN HL	7
IB PORTUGUESE B HL.....	8
IB SPANISH B HL	8
DSST Exams	9
No DSST Exams for Languages.....	9

Introduction

In 2017 the Pennsylvania general assembly enacted legislation adding a section to the Pennsylvania Public School Code, 24 P.S. § 20-2002-C(d), requiring public institutions of higher education to:

- (1) Adopt and make public uniform standards for determining academic credit for prior learning as outlined in paragraph (4) within 18 months of the effective date of this subsection.
- (2) Agree to award academic credit for prior learning, which is determined to meet the standards established under section 2004-C(c)(6) and apply the credit toward graduation, unless prohibited by external accreditation or licensure.

This document establishes the uniform standard minimum scores for which all PA Transfer System participating institutions will award academic credit pursuant to 24 P.S. § 20-2002-C(d).

During the standard setting process, committees of faculty and personnel from Transfer System institutions developed minimum score standards for which any participating member of the PA College Transfer System will award credit, as well as additional guidance and recommendations for courses that institutions may offer as equivalencies for exam scores at or above the minimum. The course equivalency recommendations are considered guidance by the Oversight Committee and may vary between institutions in accordance with their course catalog and program design.

Uniform Standard Minimum Scores for Awarding Academic Credit

Exam	Minimum Score to Receive Credit
AP Exams	
AP French Language and Culture	3
AP Spanish Language and Culture	3
AP German Language and Culture	3
CLEP Exams	
CLEP French Languages: Levels 1 and 2	50
CLEP Spanish Languages: Levels 1 and 2	50
CLEP German Languages: Levels 1 and 2	50
IB Courses/Exams	
IB French B HL	5
IB German B HL	5
IB Greek (Ancient Greek) HL	5
IB Italian B HL	5
IB Latin HL	5
IB Portuguese B HL	5
IB Spanish B HL	5
DSST Exams	
N/A	N/A

Languages

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

AP French Language and Culture

The AP French Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in French.

The AP French Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

After thorough discussion regarding the 1) rigor of AP exams, 2) knowledge, skills and abilities associated with college level learning and 3) current practices of placing students along the language study continuum. The subcommittee noted that a score of "3" on the AP exams would be equivalent to the basic language sequence at the college level and therefore should be considered the lowest level for which to grant college credit. Should scores of "4" or "5" be achieved by the student, colleges should be encouraged to award additional credit based on the institutional language sequence and curricula.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish.

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

After thorough discussion regarding the 1) rigor of AP exams, 2) knowledge, skills and abilities associated with college level learning and 3) current practices of placing students along the language study continuum. The subcommittee noted that a score of "3" on the AP exams would be equivalent to the basic language sequence at the college level and therefore should be considered the lowest level for which to grant college credit. Should scores of "4" or "5" be achieved by the student, colleges should be encouraged to award additional credit based on the institutional language sequence and curricula.

AP German Language and Culture

The AP German Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP German Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in German. The AP German Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

After thorough discussion regarding the 1) rigor of AP exams, 2) knowledge, skills and abilities associated with college level learning and 3) current practices of placing students along the language study continuum. The subcommittee noted that a score of "3" on the AP exams would be equivalent to the basic language sequence at the college level and therefore should be considered the lowest level for which to grant college credit. Should scores of "4" or "5" be achieved by the student, colleges should be encouraged to award additional credit based on the institutional language sequence and curricula.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams

CLEP French Languages: Levels 1 and 2

The French Language examination is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed two to three semesters of college French language study. Material taught during both years is incorporated into a single exam covering both Level 1 and Level 2 content. Colleges may award different amounts of credit depending on the test taker's test scores.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://clep.collegeboard.org/develop-your-clep-program/create-a-clep-policy/ace-credit-recommendations>.

A minimum score of 50 should be acceptable, reflecting "C" level work.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

Course equivalencies would be determined at the institutional level based on the language curriculum sequence at the respective college. Students who score within two points of the maximum may receive additional credit at the discretion of the university.

CLEP Spanish Languages: Levels 1 and 2

The Spanish Language exam is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed one to two years of college Spanish language study.

Material taught during both years is incorporated into a single exam, covering both Level 1 and Level 2 content.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://clep.collegeboard.org/develop-your-clep-program/create-a-clep-policy/ace-credit-recommendations>.

A minimum score of 50 should be acceptable, reflecting "C" level work.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

Course equivalencies would be determined at the institutional level based on the language curriculum sequence at the respective college. Students who score within two points of the maximum may receive additional credit at the discretion of the university.

CLEP German Languages: Levels 1 and 2

The German Language exam is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed one to two years of college German language study.

Material taught during both years is incorporated into a single exam, covering both Level 1 and Level 2 content.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://clep.collegeboard.org/develop-your-clep-program/create-a-clep-policy/ace-credit-recommendations>.

A minimum score of 50 should be acceptable, reflecting "C" level work.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

Course equivalencies would be determined at the institutional level based on the language curriculum sequence at the respective college. Students who score within two points of the maximum may receive additional credit at the discretion of the university.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams

IB FRENCH B HL

The IB French B Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the French language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college-level French I and French II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college French I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college French II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student's selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

IB GERMAN B HL

The IB German B Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the German language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college-level German I and German II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college German I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college German II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student's selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of

the awarding institution.

IB Greek (Ancient Greek) HL

The IB Greek Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the Greek language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college–level Greek I and Greek II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college Greek I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college Greek II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is very rare and at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student’s selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

IB ITALIAN B

The IB Italian B Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the Italian language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college–level Italian I and Italian II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college Italian I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college Italian II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student’s selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

IB LATIN HL

The IB Latin Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the Latin language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college–level Latin I and Latin II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college Latin I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college Latin II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is very rare and at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student’s selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

IB PORTUGUESE B HL

The IB Portuguese B Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the Portuguese language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college–level Portuguese I and Portuguese II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college Portuguese I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college Portuguese II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student’s selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

IB SPANISH B HL

The IB Spanish B Higher Level course requires that students develop at least an intermediate level ability to communicate in the Spanish language through the study of language, themes and texts. Effective communication is evidenced through receptive, productive and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 5 or higher for this course. A score of 5 or higher closely corresponds to a college grade of B or better.

Rationale

This course covers material approximately equivalent to standard college-level Spanish I and Spanish II classes.

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

The Languages subcommittee recommends awarding three (3) college credits (i.e., equivalent to an introductory standard college Spanish I course) with a score of 5 and six (6) college credits (i.e., equivalent to a college Spanish II course) with a score of 6. The awarding of additional college credit for a score greater than 6 (i.e., 7) is at the discretion of the awarding institution. Ultimately, credit should be awarded based upon the student's selected program, program structure, and best interest of the student at the discretion of the awarding institution.

DSST Exams

No DSST Exams for Languages.