

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Dear Incoming Student,

We in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures are happy to welcome you to Boston College! We look forward to seeing many of you enrolled in our language and literature courses during your time here on The Heights.

We write today with important information about the Spanish Placement Test. **Please review carefully the following in advance of the start of your First Year Experience (FYE) orientation program:**

Spanish Placement Test

If you have taken Spanish in high school, it is highly recommended that you continue taking Spanish at Boston College. If you need to fulfill the MCAS foreign language proficiency requirement (Intermediate II), **you should take the Spanish Placement Test between May 4th, 2022 and June 2nd, 2022 (five Wednesdays, five Thursdays, and 4 Saturdays)** in order to enroll in the appropriate Spanish course beginning in your first semester. This test will determine what course in the sequence you should start from as you move towards completing Intermediate Spanish II. Language courses will be more difficult if you delay completing the requirement. The Spanish Placement Test may be taken only **once**.

Who needs to take the Spanish Placement Test:

- If you have never studied Spanish, you do **not** need to take the Spanish Placement Test. Register for SPAN1015 Elementary Spanish I. ONLY students who have never studied Spanish or who place into the course may enroll in Elementary Spanish I.
- If you have studied Spanish but have not taken the Spanish Language AP Exam, take the Spanish Placement Test.
- If you have taken the AP Exam and have not yet received the score, take the Spanish Placement Test and register for the course recommended when you complete the test. When you receive the AP score, you should do the necessary placement adjustment. If you have questions, speak with the language advisor at your registration session.
- If you scored a 3 or above on the Spanish Language AP Exam, or 6/7 on the IB Language Exam (higher level), you have fulfilled the language requirement; however, you are encouraged to continue in the Spanish program at the appropriate higher level.
- **Transfer students:** If you have taken Elementary or Intermediate Spanish at a 4-year institution of higher education, sign up for the next course in sequence without taking the placement test. However, if you did not take Spanish at a 4-year institution of higher education, but did take Spanish in high school, you should take the Spanish Placement Test. Transfer students coming from 2-year institutions should take the placement test.
- Students in the Carroll School of Management, the Connell School of Nursing and the Lynch School of Education and Human Development do not have a language requirement, but are encouraged to continue studying Spanish and to take the Spanish Placement Test if appropriate or join the curriculum at a higher level if qualified to do so.

Instructions for the online Spanish Placement Test are as follows:

- From May 4th through June 2nd take the test with live technical support on Wednesday or Thursday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EDT. Otherwise, you may take the test on Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EDT, but in this case, there will only be next-business-day (i.e., Monday) emailed technical support. Contact information for live or emailed support will be provided in Canvas. You are encouraged to take the test with live support on Wednesday or Thursday to get immediate technical help if needed. If you decide to take the test on Saturday and experience difficulties, you need to exit the test and wait to hear from the test administrator by email on Monday. The test is computer-based, delivered online. **It can be taken only once.**
- Have your Boston College username and password information with you before you start the test. You will find the Spanish Placement Test as a course tile in the Canvas Learning Management System by logging in to your Canvas Course at bc.edu/lms with your Agora username and password information. You cannot take the test without these login credentials. **NOTE: The last start time for this 50-minute test is 5:00 pm EDT.**
- **You MUST use a computer** (desktop or laptop) with a **webcam** and the following required operating systems: **Windows** - 11 and 10, **Mac** - macOS 10.12 – 12.0+.
- **DO NOT use a Chromebook, iPad or other mobile device** to access the Spanish Placement Test.
- Prior to taking the Spanish Placement Test, you will need to download and install to your computer Boston College's [LockDown Browser](#) tool, which is located within the Spanish Placement Test course in Canvas. When you enter the course, **make sure to carefully read the entire homepage**. For technical assistance with the LockDown Browser installation and/or issues related to your Agora username and password, contact **Boston College's Technology Help Center** at (617) 552-4357 or <https://www.bc.edu/techchat> (Links to an external site.) Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 6:00 pm EDT and Saturday 9:00 am- 12:00 pm EDT. **Keep in mind that the test will be accessible only from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm EDT on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week from May 4th through June 2nd, 2022.**
- To ensure that you have configured the LockDown Browser tool that will be used to deliver the actual Spanish Placement Test, you will be required to **take the mandatory LockDown Browser Practice Exercise in advance** before you can take the 50-minute Spanish Placement Test itself.
- **Attention: You have not completed the Spanish Placement Test unless you have submitted Parts I, II and III.** You will not be able to register for a Spanish course unless you have completed the entire Spanish Placement Test.

Special testing accommodations:

If special testing accommodations are necessary, **DO NOT** take the Placement Test online during the May 4th through June 2nd testing period. Make sure to submit your request for accommodations as early as possible by registering with either the Disability Services Office or the Connors Family Learning Center, so that they will be able to issue you a letter of accommodation. You must receive the accommodations approval letter before taking the test. You will need to contact the test administrator (falconis@bc.edu) and present this letter in order to be able to take the test at the 'special accommodations' online testing session to be scheduled on the Wednesday of the first week of the Fall semester. The test can be taken only once.

For more information contact the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at rll@bc.edu
We look forward to welcoming you to our Spanish Program soon!

Hispanic Studies Section
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