

MARIAN UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT TESTING FAQ

Why do I need to complete placement tests prior to SOAR? What if I don't?

All placement tests, except for the reading comprehension placement test, must be taken online prior to SOAR. Your academic advisor needs the results in order to place you into the correct classes in your first semester. A deadline will be listed on the placement testing e-mail that you receive 3-4 weeks prior to your SOAR date, or within three business days if registering for SOAR after that time. All placement tests must be completed by the deadline in order for them to be scored, entered, and provided to academic advisors at SOAR. Failure to complete placement tests by the published deadline means that you may not have a finalized class schedule when you leave SOAR. You may also be prevented from registering for future semesters until placement testing is completed.

Are there study guides available?

No. The placement tests are intended to determine what courses are needed to help you be successful at Marian University. They should accurately reflect your ability level without the need for special study and preparation beforehand.

What if I have technical difficulties with completing my placement tests?

If you have any technical issues while completing your placement testing or need assistance with your Canvas account, please contact the Marian University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at citl@marian.edu with your contact information and a description of the problem and a staff member will get in touch with you to provide assistance. **Note that it is recommended to use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser.**

Can I attempt the placement test more than once?

One attempt is permitted for each placement test. If there were extenuating circumstances preventing completion of a placement test, contact the Office of the Registrar at soarmu@marian.edu or, for technical difficulties, the CITL e-mail listed above, to determine your next steps.

What if I don't do well on my placement tests?

It is important to try to do your best on your placement tests. Be assured that performance on placement tests does not affect your admission status and is not an indication of your future success at Marian University. It simply indicates what courses at Marian University are appropriate for your current ability level. We want you to be challenged and supported, not in courses that are too easy or too hard for you. In some cases, placement test results indicate a need for developmental courses to prepare you for college-level work so that you can be successful.

What if I am bringing in college credit (transfer or dual credit) or AP credit?

Credit may be awarded on the basis of achievement. If an AP score report or a college transcript is received well prior to your SOAR date showing a completed English, foreign language, or math course (with a grade of C- or higher) or AP score above the required minimum, the Office of the Registrar can evaluate it to determine if credit can be awarded and the placement testing requirement waived. Reading comprehension placement testing, if required, can not be waived due to transfer or AP credit. Most AP credit taken during the senior year is not received by Marian University until July, and some dual credit courses may not be completed and graded before SOAR. In those cases, the placement tests should still be taken. Completing a placement test does not preclude you from receiving transfer credit or AP credit, and if that credit is awarded later, it can override the placement test results.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What is the foreign language back credit policy?

Marian University's foreign language back credit policy, for students matriculating at Marian University in fall 2016 or later, provides an incentive for students who place beyond the introductory level of a foreign language to continue their study at a higher level. Additional credit hours are awarded upon successful completion of a higher-level language course that the student placed into, as follows:

- Students who place in FRE, GER, LAT, or SPA 102, and who complete that course with a "C" or better, receive credit for the course plus four credit equivalency for 101.
- Students who place in FRE, GER, LAT, or SPA 200, and who complete that course with a "C" or better, receive credit for the course plus eight credit equivalency for 101/102.
- Students who place in FRE, GER, LAT, or SPA 201, and who complete that course with a "C" or better, receive credit for the course plus seven credit equivalency for 102/200.
- Students who place in FRE, GER, LAT, or SPA 220 or above, and who complete that course with a "C" or better, receive credit for the course plus six credit equivalency for intermediate level 200/201.

Do I have to take the foreign language course that I placed into?

- To fulfill the foreign language general education requirement, you must either take the course that you placed into (for a previously studied language), or take the 101 level of a different foreign language which you have never studied in the past.

What if I have studied more than one foreign language in the past?

- You may complete placement testing in more than one foreign language. The placement test for each language may be completed once. You can then choose which foreign language you wish to continue to study, or can elect to take multiple languages at Marian University.

What if I want to take a foreign language that is not offered by Marian University?

- Marian University offers French, German, Latin, and Spanish. Classes in other languages (Chinese, Italian, Japanese, etc.) may be available through cross-registration with other universities in Indianapolis. American Sign Language does not fulfill the foreign language requirement. See the Office of the Registrar for more information.

Are there any exceptions to completion of the foreign language requirement?

- Students unable to meet the foreign language general education requirement for a degree at Marian University due to a mitigating disability should contact Counseling and Consultation Services at 317.955.6150 to inquire about the evaluation process for a foreign language alternative.
- The foreign language requirement is waived for international students whose high school courses were taught in their first language (not English). Contact the Office of the Registrar to verify eligibility.

If you have further questions about placement testing,

please contact us at soarmu@marian.edu.