PLACEMENT & ASSESSMENT EXAMS GUIDE
Students with a major in School of Communication

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT EXAMS

To make a long story short, we recommend that you take a language placement exam if you have previously studied a language, even if you think you probably won’t continue with it at Northwestern. It will help to keep your opportunities open.

Within SoC, some of you are required to take a language while at Northwestern (Comm Studies, the BA Dance degree, Performance Studies BA degree, RTVF, and Theatre BA degree), while all other SoC majors have the option to take a language to help meet a common distribution requirement. Learn more about the SoC language requirement.

If you took a language-based AP or IB exam, you’ll need to look at that language’s website for specifics on how your scores count (scores count differently across languages, or you may still be required to take a placement exam regardless of AP/IB score).

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Greek (ancient)*
- Hebrew*
- Hindi–Urdu*
- Italian
- Japanese*
- Korean
- Latin
- Persian (Farsi)*
- Polish*
- Portuguese*
- Russian*
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Turkish*

*You will take this exam during Wildcat Welcome, not online during the summer

Access the online language placement exams by July 31.

CHEMISTRY ENTRANCE EXAM

For SoC, this is one you’ll probably forego. The entrance exam is required only if you plan to take any chemistry class while at Northwestern. Your major does not require chemistry, but chemistry is one of many courses that could meet your SoC Math/Science/Technology distribution requirement.

If you’re on the fence, it doesn’t hurt to take the exam even if you’re just thinking about chem as a possibility in the future. You have access to the entrance exam in your Canvas site; you can also learn more about the exam on the Chemistry website. This is due July 31.
MATH SELF-PLACEMENT EXAM

Just like the chem entrance exam, you don’t need to worry about this one unless you are planning to take calculus at Northwestern and studied calculus in high school. As previously mentioned, you have SoC Math/Science/Technology distribution requirements; calculus courses are just a few of many courses you could take to meet that distribution requirement.

Learn more about the self-placement exam on the Department of Mathematics website.

PHYSICS PLACEMENT EXAM

The good thing about this one is that it is not an online exam that is due by July 31, you would take it during Wildcat Welcome (on September 12) so you have some time to decide. Physics is not a requirement for SoC majors, though courses could go to meet distribution requirements.

The exam is required if you took the AP Physics exam but hope to enroll in a more advanced course than what your AP score places you in. The placement exam is recommended if you didn't take the AP Physics exam but you think you may want to take one of the basic physics courses.