PLACEMENT & ASSESSMENT EXAMS GUIDE
Students with a major in Weinberg College

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT EXAMS

You have a foreign language proficiency requirement in Weinberg. If you have previously studied a language, we strongly recommend you take the placement exam for that language. Even if you think you want to start a different language, it'll help keep your options open in the future by taking the placement exam.

If you have not previously studied a language, you do not need to take a language placement exam.

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

The entrance exam is required only if you plan to take any chemistry class while at Northwestern. So, if your major is naturally heavy in chemistry or science, you'll need to take this one. Otherwise, all Weinberg students have Natural Sciences distribution requirements they must meet; chemistry courses are just a few of the many courses you can take to meet this 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. Weinberg has a Formal Studies distribution requirement; calculus courses are just a few of many courses you could take to meet that distribution requirement.

If you are planning to take a Calculus course (especially if your major is related to mathematics) and took calculus in high school, you should visit the mathematics website to access the self-placement exam. If you took an AP or IB exam, the site below also gives a helpful rundown to understand which self-placement you should take based on your AP/IB score.

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 all Weinberg majors (certainly if your major is in this area you need to take the exam), 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.