Modern/Foreign Languages (4) Westmont encourages students to continue developing their fluency in a language other than their native tongue by requiring students to complete one semester of college language beyond the level of the two-year entrance requirement to the college. Alternatively, having met the entrance requirement in one language, they may take one semester of college-level study in another language. A course in any modern spoken language (e.g. Spanish, French, or German) or ancient language (e.g. Greek or Hebrew) is accepted as fulfilling this requirement. Students are exempt from this requirement if they pass an examination demonstrating the equivalent of three semesters of college language study or present evidence of a primary language other than English to the Records Office.

Interpretive Statement

It is understood that one of Westmont’s entrance requirements is two years of one foreign language. Any student who has not fulfilled that entrance requirement must complete two semesters of language at Westmont. A student who has fulfilled the entrance requirement of two years of one foreign language may, however, change to a new language, taking one semester of a language different from that studied in high school. The only exemptions from the one-semester language requirement are for students who have a score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Test; test out of third-semester college language, or; have a primary language, both written and oral, other than English.

Foreign language study has always been intrinsic to a traditional liberal arts education. Focused study of a language other than our native one certainly affords access to understanding diversity and multiculturalism. What is more, it enables a profound intellectual transformation for students who lend their minds and their imaginations to different speech patterns and, thereby, different thought processes. Of course, as people of The Word, we seek to use language with respect and love. Few of us can appreciate our native language until we have worked intensely to learn one that is foreign to us and seen our own from the outside in.

Learning Outcomes (Draft)
The first four learning objectives of the Foreign Language GE are based directly on the national criteria set by ACTFL (The American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

1. Communicate in Other Languages Other Than English
   Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

2. Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures
   Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between some of the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

3. Develop insight into the Nature of Language
Students can demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language by comparing the language they study and their own.

4. **Participate in Multilingual Communities**
   Students use the language both within and beyond the classroom setting.

5. **Understand the Importance of Learning Another Language as Christians**
   Students are able to articulate the importance of learning another language in order to engage people unlike them in terms that affirm the other as another person created in God’s image.