

Rules Governing Proficiency Requirements

The proficiency requirements ensure that each student has the ability to use the written word and mathematics as tools of thought and expression and to use a foreign language in a functional way.

Students who demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, writing, or foreign language will be exempted from the appropriate course or courses without credit.

Rules Governing All Proficiency and Developmental Courses

Students who are placed into them must earn a grade of “C” or better in ENG 001, ENG 101, ENG 102, MTH 001, MTH 101, MTH 103, MTH 105, and the first semester (101) of a foreign language in order to satisfy proficiency requirements. Students who either drop or earn a grade of less than a “C” in these courses must repeat the courses immediately in the following regular semester. Students must earn a “C” in the second semester (102) of a foreign language in order to enroll in the first course (201) of the second year of a foreign language.

Once students have matriculated at Lyon, they are advised not to take and attempt to transfer back to Lyon proficiency courses (ENG 101, ENG 102, MTH 101, MTH 103, MTH 105, and the 101-102 foreign language sequence) at other institutions. For that transfer to occur, they must pass a Lyon proficiency exam at the level of the course they are attempting to transfer to Lyon.

Composition and Reading Proficiency

Incoming students’ writing and reading proficiency and placement will be determined by the English faculty on the basis of standardized test scores. Developmental courses taken at other institutions may also be considered in placement but do not transfer to Lyon. Students who are not placed out of ENG 001 will enroll immediately in the sequence as placed. Incoming students who demonstrate proficiency in ENG 101 may delay taking ENG 102 until the spring of their first year.

Similarly, students who are placed into ENG 001 must enroll immediately in the course.

Mathematics Proficiency

Incoming students’ mathematical proficiency will be determined by the mathematics faculty on the basis of standardized test scores. College-level mathematics courses completed by the transfer students will also be considered by the mathematics faculty when determining their mathematics proficiency. Developmental courses taken at other institutions may also be considered in placement but do not transfer to Lyon. Incoming students who are placed into MTH 001 must enroll in the course during their first year. Students who are not placed out of MTH 101, MTH 103, and MTH 105 must enroll in one of these two courses during their first two years.

Foreign Language Proficiency

Students who have studied languages taught at Lyon in high school or elsewhere may satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement by taking and passing a Lyon test upon entrance.

Students who do not demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language or who have had no previous language study are strongly urged to begin a foreign language 101-102 sequence in the fall semester of their first year. Students who successfully complete the first course in a foreign language (101) in the fall must enroll for the second course in that language (102) in the spring. Students who place out of 101 and do not take 102 in the first year will be asked to retake the proficiency exam, demonstrating their 102 readiness. Thus, students who place out of 101 are encouraged to take 102 as soon as possible. International students whose formal primary and/or secondary school education in their home country was conducted in a language other than English may use their demonstrated proficiency in English as a second language in order to satisfy Lyon’s foreign language requirement. English-speaking students who wish to fulfill Lyon’s foreign language requirement by

demonstrating proficiency in a second language not taught at Lyon bear the burden of providing proof of their reading, writing, speaking and listening proficiencies in that language to the satisfaction of Lyon's foreign language faculty. This may be done by means of a letter from a qualified post-secondary instructor certifying the student's level of proficiency in that language.