

PLACEMENT TEST GUIDELINES FOR INCOMING STUDENTS  
UNDER AXLE

1. **FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** see AXLE description, below.

All students have to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language at a basic level. Basic level = 1 year of study at the university level. One year at university level = completion of or proficiency in second semester of foreign language instruction by some means: AP credit; SAT II; VU departmental test; *or* appropriate Vanderbilt course.

AXLE test scores for demonstrating Foreign Language proficiency remain exactly the same as those that were required by the CPLE:

AP scores of 4 or 5 in French Language or French Literature; German; Vergil, Latin Lyric Poetry, or Latin Literature; or Spanish.

SAT II scores of at least 540 (French), 470 (German), 530 (Hebrew), 540 (Italian), 440 (Japanese with Listening), 530 (Latin), or 520 (Spanish).

VU Departmental test scores of at least 350 (French) or 20 (Spanish).

Description of AXLE Distribution Category: INT = International Cultures

All students must complete three courses in this category, irrespective of previous language study or proficiency in a language other than English. At least one of the three courses presented in fulfillment of this category must be a second semester (or higher) language acquisition class taught at Vanderbilt University, unless the student successfully demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English at or above the level achieved by second semester language acquisition classes taught at Vanderbilt University. The first semester of an introductory language acquisition class in any language a student has studied for at least two years in high school, or in which a student transfers credit from another institution, cannot be used in partial fulfillment of this requirement. Intensive elementary language courses that cover the content of two semesters in one shall count as one course toward this category.

2. **MATH**

AXLE Distribution Category: MNS = Mathematics and Natural Sciences

All students who plan to take calculus at Vanderbilt must take the Mathematics algebra and trigonometry diagnostic test, offered by the Mathematics Department. Those attending SAOP will take it at that time. Those who do not attend SAOP will take it in August.

**All pre-med students must take the Mathematics algebra and trigonometry diagnostic test, offered by the Mathematics Department for placement in calculus (which is required for premedical studies and must be taken at Vanderbilt regardless of AP credit).**

Any student planning to major or minor in one of the following needs to take the departmental diagnostic test for placement in calculus (which is required or strongly recommended for these majors/minors):

Astronomy	Economics
Biological Sciences	Neuroscience
Chemistry	Physics
Earth & Environmental Sciences	Psychology & Sociology <i>possibly</i>

### 3. WRITING

Writing is the only skill that is privileged in the AXLE curriculum. ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE AT LEAST 3 WRITING COURSES UNDER AXLE. SOME WILL TAKE 4.

Incoming students must present SAT test scores for placement purposes. The only exception is students with AP English scores of 4 or 5 (see below).

Students with SAT II Writing test scores of less than 560 must enroll in English 100. This is the same as with the CPLE curriculum.

Starting in Fall, 2006, students with SAT test scores less than 500 on the Writing section, less than 500 on the Critical Reading section, *or* less than 1220 combined on the Writing and Critical Reading sections must enroll in English 100.

AP English scores of 4 or 5 are the equivalent of SAT II Writing scores higher than 560 or SAT 500 Writing, 500 Critical Reading, and 1220 Writing + Critical Reading.

#### **POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT AXLE**

1. No AP credit can be counted towards the 13 courses required for AXLE.
2. AP credit *does* count towards other areas of a student's course of study.
3. AP credit is also used, in some cases, for placement in individual levels of courses.
4. This is important because virtually every course is now open to first year students for AXLE fulfillment, regardless of level.