Spanish Placement Guide
Dept. of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures
Virginia Tech

Please use this placement guide to best determine which Spanish class to start with at Virginia Tech. The descriptions of our Spanish courses on the second page may help you make a decision. If you have questions, you can schedule an appointment with Caitlin Cook, the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures academic advisor, in Navigate to discuss your initial course placement and how it will affect your course sequence.

I. FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE SPANISH AP OR IB SCORES ON RECORD AT VIRGINIA TECH:

Spanish classes in high school…	Enroll in this Spanish class at VT…
0-1	1105
2-3	1106 or 1114
3-4	2105 or 2114
4-5	2106 or 3105
5-6	3106, 3154, 3304, or 34xx/35xx

Use the chart above if you have recently completed Spanish coursework in high school. Your actual performance in those classes impacts the suitability of the recommended Spanish course indicated in the table. If more than a year has passed since your last Spanish class and you have not been using Spanish, you should consider a class level that is lower than what the table recommends.

II. FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE SPANISH AP OR IB SCORES ON RECORD AT VIRGINIA TECH

For students entering **fall 2026 or later**:

Your AP Language score…	That score is worth…	Enroll in this Spanish class at VT…
3	2xxx (3 cr.)	2106, 2114
4	3xxx (3 cr.)	3105 or 3106
5	3xxx (6 cr.)	3154, 33xx, 34xx, or 35xx
Your AP Literature score…		
3	2xxx (3 cr.)	2106 or 3105
4 or 5	3xxx (6 cr).	3154, 3304, 34xx, or 35xx

If you have both AP Language and AP Literature scores, please contact Caitlin Cook in Navigate to determine your starting point.

All AP scores are received by Virginia Tech as elective credits (e.g., 3xxx). In order to have your AP credits converted to a SPAN course number, talk with Caitlin Cook.

For students entering **fall 2026 and later:**

Your IB Language score…	That score is worth…	Enroll in this Spanish class at VT…
Spanish SL (ab) 5-7	1xxx (3 cr.)	1106, 1114, 2105 or 2114
Spanish SL (B) 5-7	2xxx (3 cr.)	2106 or 3105
Spanish HL (B) 4-7	2xxx (3 cr.)	2106 or 3105
Your IB Literature score…		
Spanish SL (A) 5-7	3xxx (3 cr.)	3105, 3106, 3154, 3304, 34xx, or 35xx
Spanish SL L&L (A) 5-7	2xxx (3 cr).	2106 or 3105

NOTE: No credit is awarded for the Higher Level A1 or A2 exams.
Students who entered Virginia Tech before Fall 2026 should contact Caitlin Cook in Navigate with any questions regarding AP or IB credit.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE TRANSFER CREDIT FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:
Enroll in the next sequential Spanish course after the one for which you have transfer credit. Check the website to see course descriptions and the pacing of courses (https://liberalarts.vt.edu/academics/majors-and-minors/spanish-major/course-list.html). If you feel that you are not prepared for the next sequential course, you may re-take the Spanish class for which you have transfer credit; doing so will result in the duplication and loss of the transfer credit.

NATIVE AND HERITAGE SPEAKERS OF SPANISH:
Generally, heritage speakers (students who use Spanish at home at least some of the time) and native speakers of Spanish should begin their Spanish coursework with *SPAN 3514, SPAN 3304* or a *SPAN 34/35xx course*. In some cases, though, these students may need to take SPAN 3105 or 3106, in order to develop certain competencies regarding language usage.

SPAN 1105: No previous knowledge of Spanish is required to register for SPAN 1105.

SPAN 1106: Upon entrance into Spanish 1106, students are expected to be already able to communicate at a basic level (listening, speaking, reading and writing) about: family members and relationships, the time of day, days of the week, months and seasons of the year, university life and related activities, house parts and household chores, city places, and hobbies. Students should also be familiar with the Spanish alphabet and numbers up to 100,000,000. Students are expected to be able to talk about all the topics listed above both in the present and in the future.

SPAN 1114: Upon entrance into Spanish 1114, students are expected to be already able to communicate at a basic level (listening, speaking, reading and writing) about: family members and relationships, the time of the day, days of the week, months and seasons of the year, university life and related activities, house parts and household chores, city places and hobbies, food, clothes and animals. Students should also be familiar with the Spanish alphabet and numbers up to 100,000,000. Students are expected to be able to talk about all these topics listed above both in the present and in the future. Students are not assumed to have mastered the different uses of the past tenses but are expected to be familiar with some verb forms of the past.

SPAN 2105: Students entering a SPAN 2105 class should be able to demonstrate command (i.e., have good use of structures with some errors) about likes, dislikes, general descriptions of people, places and things. Students should also be able to create simple narrations using tenses in the past, present and future for the purposes of sustaining simple conversations about familiar settings (home, school, restaurants, travel), using appropriate cultural references. Students should be comfortable writing sentences as well as small paragraphs, leading up to small essays. Incoming students should exhibit limited control, yet with some errors, of grammar structures such as the past tenses, object pronouns, plus structures to express personal opinions and some abstract situations.

SPAN 2106: Students entering a SPAN 2106 class should be able to demonstrate command (i.e., have good use of structures with some errors) in providing descriptions with fluency and a variety of vocabulary; creating more complex narrations using several tenses in coherent paragraphs; speaking about abstract situations and/or basic hypothetical situations; reading/comprehending readings with authentic (native) language use; applying limited use of complex grammar structures. Incoming students should also demonstrate competence (limited control, but with errors) over complex grammar structures, including tenses in the subjunctive mood and the perfect tenses.

SPAN 2114: This is a 6-credit course that combines the content of SPAN 2105 and SPAN 2106 into a single semester. Students entering a SPAN 2114 class should be able to demonstrate command (i.e., have good use of structures with some errors) about likes, dislikes, general descriptions of people, places and things. Students should also be able to create simple narrations using tenses in the past, present and future for the purposes of sustaining simple conversations about familiar settings (home, school, restaurants, travel), using appropriate cultural references. Students should be comfortable writing sentences as well as small paragraphs, leading up to small essays. Incoming students should exhibit limited control, yet with some errors, of grammar structures such as the past tenses, object pronouns, plus structures to express personal opinions and some abstract situations.

SPAN 3105: Students entering into SPAN 3105 should be able to adequately communicate, by way of spoken and written Spanish, about a variety of familiar as well as newly-introduced topics. Expression through spoken Spanish should occur somewhat comfortably in both presentational and interpersonal settings; expression through written Spanish should be occurring comfortably in sentences, paragraphs, and small essays. Successful incoming 3105 students generally find themselves less encumbered by certain linguistic and other extra-linguistic factors that sometimes impede more robust and cohesive expression and understanding of Spanish through written, oral, and aural means. Incoming students should be able to use and understand single- and multiple-clause sentences, involving the present, preterit, and imperfect tenses. Students should also have a limited, but functional, understanding and control of the subjunctive mood (present and past); object pronouns; as well as the future, conditional, present perfect, and past perfect indicative tenses. This class will help student better appreciate exceptions to rules as well as more nuanced used of verb tenses previously studied.

SPAN 3106: This course is a reading- writing-speaking-listening intensive course. Upon entrance into Spanish 3106 students are expected to demonstrate reading comprehension at the intermediate high level of proficiency for authentic literary and popular press selections. Students also have to demonstrate writing proficiency at the intermediate mid-level in essays. They have to be able to express ideas using advanced grammar and wide vocabulary, including being able to comment on topics ranging from technology, international relations, and cultural analysis. Watching movies is a big part of this course. Movies are tools to highlight environmental and cultural issues in the Hispanic world, for that reason students have to demonstrate listening comprehension at the intermediate high level and speaking proficiency at the intermediate mid-level. Students must be able to organize and structure ideas to communicate in a logical and convincing way. Proficiency levels referred to here have been established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

SPAN 3154, 3304, 34xx, or 35xx: In these courses, students will further develop oral and writing skills in Spanish and acquire a deeper understanding of Hispanic cultures. In terms of reading, students should feel comfortable reading at the intermediate-high level without the use of dictionaries. They also must be willing to working on more complex texts that will require more time and study to achieve full comprehension. In terms of speaking and listening, students should be able to ask and understand questions related to a range of topics and be willing to discuss new and complex topics in Spanish (e.g., with new vocabulary). The primary language of instruction is Spanish.