Foreign Language Requirement

Proficiency in a language other than one’s own, ancient or modern, serves many ends. It deepens an appreciation of one’s own language, increases sensitivity and understanding of the nature of language itself, and enables the student to gain a far more intimate understanding of different cultures than is possible through translations. Further, with regard to specific disciplinary ends, many graduate programs require a reading knowledge of at least two languages other than English.

For all these reasons, Haverford College requires that all students be exposed to college-level study of a language other than English. To fulfill this degree requirement, which must be completed by the end of the junior year, all Haverford students must complete two semesters of college level study of a language other than English. Proficiency may be acquired and/or demonstrated in any one of the following three ways in order to fulfill this degree requirement, which must be completed by the end of the junior year:

(a) One full year of language study in one language at the level in which the student is placed by the Haverford language department; or (b) Language study in a semester or year-long course abroad conducted in the language of the country under Haverford College’s approved International Study Abroad Programs, and as certified in advance by the relevant language department chair at either Haverford or Bryn Mawr, or the Educational Policy Committee when the language has no counter department at either Haverford or Bryn Mawr; or

Language courses may be taken at Haverford or at any of the cooperating colleges: Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, and with advisor and registrar permission, the University of Pennsylvania. The Haverford department, however, must determine placement. Other restrictions which apply to the language requirement are as follows: Language courses taken to fulfill the language requirement do not meet divisional distribution requirements, and courses taken to fulfill the language requirement may not be taken Pass/Fail at Bryn Mawr or Swarthmore, or P/F at the University of Pennsylvania.