

First Semester Foreign Language

The standards outlined below reflect college first semester exit competencies and are equivalent to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Novice Mid level and the CEF (Common European Framework) A1 level, with the exception of the optional cultural knowledge section. In each respective section below, students will:

I. Listening

- 1) Understand short and simple conversations on familiar topics such as myself, family, and my immediate surroundings when spoken slowly and clearly.
- 2) Sometimes recognize cognates, affixes, and thematic vocabulary to help me understand live or recorded spoken language.

II. Reading

- 1) Understand familiar names, words, and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.
- 2) Understand basic questions on standardized forms well enough to give important information (name, date of birth, nationality).
- 3) Distinguish between questions, statements, and exclamations.

III. Writing

- 1) Write lists, very short messages, post cards, and simple notes.
- 2) Write simple sentences describing myself and others using memorized phrases on familiar topics such as self, family, and immediate surroundings.
- 3) Supply basic personal information, such as physical information and preferences, in simple forms.

IV. Speaking

- 1) Describe self with some hesitation using memorized words and phrases and can ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics such as self, family, and immediate surroundings.
- 2) Use simple phrases and sentences to describe where they live and people they know, making themselves understood by a sympathetic native speaker.

V. Cultural Knowledge (OPTIONAL)

- 1) Have increased knowledge and appreciation of a different culture.

Suggested topics for inclusion in a first-semester foreign language course (ex.: Italian)

1. Italy and the world	6. Educational system
2. Families and values in Italy	7. Spending money, bank system
3. Geography, how to place people, regional differences, dialects	8. Modern cities
4. A typical day: work, play, daily habits, meals	9. Youth and their interests
5. Health issues	10. Art, artists, authors, films, TV, cartoons, comic books