

# Language Alternate as an Academic Accommodation

Students with learning, speech, hearing, or other diagnoses or disabilities that significantly impact the student's ability to acquire a language other than their primary language may request a Language Alternate accommodation through the Office of Accessibility Services.

Requests for a Language Alternate accommodation will be considered at any point during the student's academic program; however, students should keep in mind that requests made near the completion of their program may delay their graduation.

Students seeking a Language Alternate accommodation must first submit qualifying documentation as described on the OAS website under "Where Do I Begin? – How To Register with OAS" in order to register with the OAS and establish their eligibility for the Language Alternate accommodation. Documentation must clearly demonstrate a significant difficulty with language-based tasks in reading, spelling, writing, speaking, or listening that impacts language acquisition.

A student who is approved for a Language Alternate accommodation must take two additional courses (at least 8 semester hours) which fulfill the Global Cultural (GC) Key Content Areas requirement and which have an international perspective. These two classes that relate to global issues and cultural understanding replace the two consecutive levels of a foreign language which constitute the undergraduate language requirement.

## Process for Requesting a Language Alternate Accommodation:

1. The student should consult their advisor or the Chair of their academic program about the language requirements of their degree program.
2. The student must submit a brief personal statement describing their barriers to acquiring a language to the OAS. The statement must describe why a Language Alternate accommodation is necessary for their completion of their degree program.
3. The student must schedule a meeting with the OAS to review their request. The OAS can be reached for appointment scheduling at [access@simmons.edu](mailto:access@simmons.edu).
4. The OAS will review the student's submitted documentation and personal statement. Review and evaluation of a request for a Language Alternate accommodation and all related documentation/statements can require two to four weeks. Students should plan to submit their requests accordingly.
5. If the student's Language Alternate accommodation request is approved, the OAS informs the Office of Undergraduate Advising and the Registrar's Office of the approval of the request.

The Office of Undergraduate Advising will share the list of Language Alternate course offerings with the approved student. The Language Alternate Course Listing is also available on the OAS website.