

## Language Alternate as an Academic Accommodation

The Language Alternate accommodation allows an eligible student to take two additional courses (at least 8 semester hours) that fulfill the Global Cultural (GC) Key Content Area requirement, emphasizing an international perspective and cross-cultural understanding, as an alternate way of satisfying the undergraduate language requirement. (As of fall 2023, the undergraduate language requirement can be met by the successful completion of the 102 level in any modern language or demonstration of proficiency equivalent to that level through appropriate and approved channels.)

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

A student's request 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.

### PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A LANGUAGE ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION:

1. The student should consult their academic advisor or the department chair of their academic program about the language requirements of their major. Specific programs may have stricter second language requirements for which a Language Alternate accommodation may constitute a fundamental alteration of the program.
2. The student must submit qualifying documentation and the Accommodation Request Form in order to register with the OAS.
  - a. Documentation: The student must submit qualifying documentation that meets the documentation requirements and criteria as outlined on the OAS website in order to register with the OAS and establish their eligibility for the Language Alternate accommodation. The *Practitioner's Verification of Diagnosis* form may be used as documentation to support a Language Alternate accommodation request. Documentation must clearly demonstrate a significant impairment with language-based tasks in reading, spelling, writing, speaking, or listening that impacts language acquisition. Documentation should be submitted as an attachment to the Accommodation Request Form.
  - b. Accommodation Request Form: The student must submit the [Accommodation Request Form](#) and include a personal statement describing their barriers to acquiring a language, how spoken second languages are inaccessible for them due to their diagnosis, and why they are requesting a Language Alternate accommodation. The student's personal statement must describe why a Language Alternate accommodation is necessary for their completion of their degree program.
3. The OAS will review the student's documentation, personal statement, and Accommodation Request Form **only** after all materials are received. Review of Language Alternate requests can require two to four weeks, so students should plan to submit their requests accordingly. **Requests made near the completion of a student's program may delay their graduation.**
4. If the student is found eligible, the OAS sends a Language Alternate Accommodation Eligibility Letter to the student and to the Registrar's Office. The OAS may also inform the Office of Undergraduate Advising of the student's eligibility for this accommodation.
5. The student should review the courses on the [Language Alternate Course Listing](#) and confer with their academic advisor (not with the OAS staff) to pick two additional GC courses to satisfy the Language Alternate accommodation. The Language Alternate Course Listing is subject to change and courses may not be offered every semester.
6. Students must save a copy of their Language Alternate Accommodation Eligibility Letter for their records as they may be required to share the letter with the Registrar's Office prior to the student's graduation.

### Office of Accessibility Services

[simmons.edu/access](http://simmons.edu/access)

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