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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2023

TO: University Undergraduate Program Committee

FROM: Dr. Nuria Godón, Spanish Head / Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature

SUBJECT: Change of pre-requisites at 2000 and 3000 Spanish language courses

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In order to better serve the Spanish students in the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature (LLCL), and allow an easier registration in appropriate classes, we are requesting that no pre-requisites be demanded at the 2000 and 3000 Spanish language classes.

Students enrolling for the first time in Spanish at FAU must take a placement test. If they score at a 2000/3000 or higher level the system does not allow them to directly enroll in the appropriate courses due to course pre-requisites. To register in the appropriate level, students must get in touch with the department and complete a form in order to receive an override. A significant number of students don't follow this procedure and register in courses with no prerequisites: SPN 1120 and SPN 1121. Thus, the Spanish section requested to eliminate pre-requisites at the 2000 and 3000 language courses to facilitate students' registration in the appropriate courses.

As recommended, the majority of students take the placement test before classes start. Other students take it in the first, second, and even third week of class. The placement test does not export results to Banner yet and our request to have this done has been delayed by other pressing imperatives FAU had to comply with.

The impossibility to register at the appropriate course level before the drop-add period is over has big repercussions:

For students: This situation creates disparities and destabilize course performance at the 1000 level; multiple petitions of late add/drop involving fees; difficulties catching up with the material after late add; 2000/3000/4000 level course cancelations for lack of enrollment as well as issues to graduate on time with a minor or major in Spanish, since classes get canceled before the course starts.

For administration: A significant number of petitions of Late add/drop and petitions of making swifts from one course to a higher level are made every semester.

For the Spanish section: Among other detrimental effects, the lack of enrollment in the appropriate course before classes results in course cancellations at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels. Course cancellations drive students to drop their minors or majors in LLCL: Spanish.

**As a solution for this structural problem,** I am kindly asking this committee to reconsider the possibility of changing pre-requisites at 2000 and 3000 level Spanish language courses to no pre-requisites. If members of the UUPC think we should keep waiting for OIT to develop the software allowing us to export placement test results into Banner, I would kindly ask this committee to reconsider at least the change of pre-requisites in SPN 2220 (and its equivalents SPN 2341 and SPN 2161) following the University of Florida model, that does not include the placement test or any other pre-requisite at the Intermediate Spanish 1, since students with two years of Spanish courses at the high school level, easily score in the placement test to be enrolled in Intermediate Spanish 1.