

Studying Two Languages at Concord Academy

Can one take two languages at Concord Academy?

The short answer is **yes**, but you should know that you must plan carefully and that you will have to make choices. The philosophy of the Modern and Classical Languages Department is to encourage students to pursue the language that they are most interested in, regardless of prior experience in middle school, and to pursue that language as far as they can. Basically, if you study two languages, you must decide which other major area (e.g., math, science, history) you will not pursue in any given year. Here are two sample paths through the course sequence (all courses are semester courses unless otherwise indicated):

Student A

	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR
<i>English</i>	Freshman (yr)	Sophomore (yr)	Elective / Elective	Elective / Elective
<i>History</i>		Elective intro / Elective intro or mid	-- / Elective mid or upper	Elective upper / Elective upper
<i>Latin</i>	Latin 2 (yr)	Latin 3 (yr)	Advanced elective / --	
<i>French</i>	French 1 (yr)	French 2 (yr)	French 3 (yr)	Advanced elective / Advanced elective
<i>Science</i>	Biology (yr)		Chemistry (yr)	Physics A / Physics B
<i>Mathematics</i>	Geometry 1 / Geometry 2	Algebra 2 / Statistics	Precalculus / Trigonometry	Calculus: Part A / Calculus: Part B
<i>Computer, Visual Arts, or Perf. Arts</i>	Elective(s)	Elective(s)	Elective(s)	Elective(s)

This student places into Latin 2 as a freshman and wants to take four years of two languages. In order to try out a second language, she does not take history in her freshman year. She finds she loves both languages and continues to study both long enough to reach the advanced level in each. Note that she does not take a science course in her sophomore year or a Latin course in her senior year.

Student B

	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR
<i>English</i>	Freshman (yr)	Sophomore (yr)	Elective / Elective	Elective / Elective
<i>History</i>	Elective intro / Elective intro		Elective mid / Elective mid or upper	-- / Elective upper
<i>Spanish</i>	Spanish 2 (yr)	Spanish 3 (yr)	Advanced elective / Advanced elective	Advanced elective / Advanced elective
<i>German</i>	German 1 (yr)	German 2 (yr)	German 3 (yr)	Advanced elective / Advanced elective
<i>Science</i>		Chemistry (yr)	-- / Elective	Physics A / Physics B
<i>Mathematics</i>	Intermed. Algebra / Geometry 1	Geometry 2 / Algebra 2	Statistics / --	Precalculus / --
<i>Computer, Visual Arts, or Perf. Arts</i>	Elective(s)	Elective(s)	Elective(s)	Elective(s)

This student places into Spanish 2 as a freshman, but he also wants to start German. While he does not reach calculus in his math sequence, he does have advanced courses in each language on his transcript. He delays mid-level history until the junior year in order to balance history, science, and math. Alternatively, in junior year he could swap semesters for science and math, taking a first-semester science elective and second-semester Statistics.

These are just two samples to illustrate that taking two languages is possible. There are many different plans you could design that may also include studying another language for only one or two years, or taking only one semester of an elective at the advanced level rather than two. All students should discuss their choices with their advisor to ensure that graduation requirements in all departments are being met.

While a few very able and motivated students have been able to carry six majors (including two languages), six majors is a load that we do not generally recommend and is a load that many if not most students would find overwhelming. This option is available only with approval from the academic dean.