

Taking foreign language classes at Palomar and Mira Costa College- some points to consider *

Advantages	Disadvantages (or what you need to know)
Earn college credits to save money once at a four year university	Palomar and MCC enroll HS students after college students- difficult to obtain courses, many HS students turned away
Opens up space in a student's SMHS course schedule for another elective	Curriculum and textbooks do NOT correspond to SMHS curriculum and textbooks. This means there is no exact equivalent course
College credits transfer to SMHS thus putting the student ahead in credits toward graduation	Spanish 101, French 101, etc. is not a prerequisite for level 3 at SMHS- students will be missing vocabulary and conjugation concepts needed in level 3 here
Course is weighted on most university applications for admissions purposes (but not weighted on HS transcript)	Strongly recommended that students who take college level 101 also take level 102 at community college. Some universities do not accept a college semester course as the two-year high school equivalent
Gives HS student insight to experience as a college student	A low or failing grade becomes a permanent part of the student's college/academic record and cannot be erased. This will be seen by universities as they ask for a record of "all colleges attended."
Universities look favorably upon successful completion of college courses in high school	Due to differences in college and high school curriculum, student should ensure correct level placement with college dept. and/or college professor

*SMHS counselors recommend that students exceed the minimum A-G requirement of two years of language. We highly suggest students complete three or four years for admission to selective universities. Some private/independent universities require three years as the minimum eligibility requirement.

FAQs:

I have taken Spanish 1 (or French 1) at SMHS. What Palomar course should I take to fulfill the two-year minimum requirement?

This student could take either Spanish 101 or Spanish 101B to meet the minimum two year requirement for most four-year universities. However, we recommend that this student take Spanish 102 at Palomar College. Level 101 meets the minimum requirements for CSU schools (according to 2015 admissions policy), but not necessarily for selective admissions at other universities. In addition, this student would not be well-prepared for a level 3 course at SMHS.

How do I sign up for a class at Palomar or Mira Costa?

High school students must have a signed K-12 form/packet, which permits minors to take college courses. These can be obtained from any staff member in the SMHS counseling office. The step by step instructions for applying are on the front page of the packet.

