



## Department of Second Languages - Course Challenges

"Course challenge is a provision mandated by Alberta Education that allows senior high school students who believe that they have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes as defined by the Program of Studies for a given course and are ready to demonstrate that achievement, to participate in a summative assessment/evaluation process, be given a final course mark, and, if successful, credits in that course."

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Only the following language courses (at Henry Wise Wood High School), can be considered for challenge: French 10, 20, 30 & 31A, Spanish 10, 20 & 30

### The Challenge Application Process

Students are responsible for initiating the course challenge process with the school principal and must take the responsibility for providing evidence of readiness to challenge a course (for example, a portfolio, other collection, documentation of work and/or experience, a recommendation from a junior high school principal or a current teacher of the student).

This request should be directed in writing to **Mr. Scott Garen**, Henry Wise Wood High School. Upon receipt of a written request to challenge a Second Language course, the Learning Leader is responsible for determining, through consultation, the student's readiness for course challenge.

Mr. Garen will consider the student's chance of successfully meeting the acceptable standard for the course and the student's capacity to handle successfully the course at the next level.

Approved applicants will then be referred to a certificated Second Language teacher at Henry Wise Wood High School who has taught the course being challenged.

### The Challenge Process

The assessment of the student's knowledge, skills and attitudes must reflect the unique learning outcomes of the Second Language course being challenged encompass a variety of assessment strategies and will include the following three components:

1. A demonstration - 40%
2. A formal student interview - 20%
3. A formal examination - 40%

1. The **demonstration** must consist of either:
  - a portfolio of student work exhibiting the student's second language abilities, or
  - a project study report (to be decided upon in consultation with the Second Language teacher).
2. The **formal student interview** will:
  - assess the student's knowledge, skills and attitudes
  - assess the breadth and depth of the student's understanding.
  - address the affective domain of the subject area.
3. The formal examination will include the following two components:
  - a multiple choice test
  - a written test (composition/writing sample)

The student must pass each component of the course challenge. The course challenge mark will be communicated to the student in writing and students will have an opportunity to discuss the assessment with the teacher should they wish an explanation of the results. A student may appeal a course challenge mark following the school's appeal procedures (see Student Agenda for this procedure).

Students will receive a % mark and receive five credits for the challenged Second Language course, should they be successful. Also, the student will receive waived prerequisite credits and a "P" for pass for courses lower in the course sequence.