

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Updating the Foreign Language Requirement
Resolution 2025-26H

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	11/11/2025
First Reading by Commission	02/23/2026
Approval by Commission	03/06/2026
First Reading by Senate	Date
Approval by Senate	Date
Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Staff Senate Comment	Date
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	Date
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	Date
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Spring 2027 Cohort

WHEREAS, Presidential Policy Memorandum 68 (PPM 68) introduced a new undergraduate admissions requirement that students must have two units of a single foreign or classical language study during high school (3 units by the College of Arts and Sciences); and

WHEREAS, PPM 68 also allowed students to meet the requirement by earning 6 semester hours of college-level foreign language credit, such credits to be in addition to the number normally required for graduation in a student’s program of study; or by receiving credit by examination for a foreign or classical language”; and

WHEREAS, PPM 68 essentially created an admissions requirement but deferred its enforcement until the time a student graduates; and

WHEREAS, 98% of the 2017-2019 cohorts of admitted students met the language study requirement at the time of admission. Only 232 students out of a total of 23,684 took courses at Virginia Tech to meet the requirement; and

WHEREAS, for these 232 students, PPM 68 does not allow the foreign language courses taken to meet the requirement to count towards their degree which can delay a timely completion; and

WHEREAS, tracking this requirement at the time of graduation creates additional workload for departments, colleges, and university offices; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the language requirement at admission does not eliminate or preclude additional foreign or classical language courses as part of a specific degree requirement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the language study requirement be enforced at the time of admission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the university will monitor for any unintentional barriers to admissions created by this change in enforcement by identifying changes in the pool of applicants denied admission due to the requirement.