

Rowan University
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
STAMP Spanish Placement Exam
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who should take the STAMP Spanish Placement Exam?

A: If you are a native Spanish speaker, a heritage Spanish speaker, or have previously studied Spanish (in high school or at another college/university), and are not interested in starting your study of the language from scratch (from Spanish 1), you should take the STAMP Spanish Placement Exam. Also, all new Spanish Majors and all students enrolled in “Appreciation of Hispanic Literature” (SPAN 05.301) are required to take the exam.

Q: Who should be contacted for more information about the STAMP Spanish Placement Exam or to schedule an appointment to take the exam?

A: If you have questions about the exam after having read through this document or would like to schedule an appointment to take the exam, contact Dr. Marilyn Manley of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at manley@rowan.edu. It is necessary for Dr. Manley to have your e-mail address on file in order to send you your placement results.

Q: By when must students take the exam if they are interested in placing into an appropriate level of Spanish during a given semester?

A: In order to allow time for the placement exam to be scored and for the Placement Coordinator to retrieve the official results report, students must take the exam during the first few days of the drop/add period of a given semester at the very latest. It is the student’s responsibility to take the exam as far in advance as possible. The earlier the exam is taken, the earlier the student may be placed into an appropriate course. Students who take the exam later may not have any open seats available to them at the level into which they have been placed.

Q: How much does the STAMP Spanish Placement Exam cost, and what are the possible methods of payment?

A: The cost of the exam is \$17.50. Students may pay with exact cash or a check or money order made out to “Rowan Foreign Languages Dept.”. Please note that students who wish to pay with cash but who do not have exact change will not be given any change back for an over-payment in cash.

Q: Besides the method of payment, what else must be brought in for test day?

A: Students must bring in (or have memorized) the following pieces of information:

1. Rowan University network login username and password (If you are not yet a Rowan student, the Language Lab Supervisor will log you in.)
2. Rowan Banner ID number (If you are not yet a Rowan student, please use your social security number for identification purposes.)
3. Phone number
4. E-mail address

In the event that students must arrive late or cannot come to a scheduled appointment to take the exam, they should contact the Language Lab Supervisor, Elaine Brigandi at brigandi@rowan.edu or (856) 256-4072 as soon as possible in order to let her know of the change and reschedule the appointment if necessary.

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Q: Into which classes can students be placed?

A: Depending on the STAMP test result, students are placed into one of five class levels: Spanish 1 (SPAN 05.101), Spanish 2 (SPAN 05.102), Spanish 3 (SPAN 05.201), Spanish Reading and Conversation (SPAN 05.211), and Spanish Reading and Composition (SPAN 05.212).

Q: Why might students want to skip class levels?

A: In order to avoid wasting time, effort and money, and in order to get the most out of their Rowan University experience, students are interested in being placed into the most appropriate class level to start out with their Spanish studies. For Spanish Majors and Minors, skipping a class level means finishing the Spanish Major or Minor that much sooner.

Q: Do students receive credit for the courses that they skip?

A: No, the results of the STAMP exam may not be used for course credit. However, the CLEP Exam in Spanish, which is administered through Rowan's Academic Success Center, depending on the test result, may allow students to earn up to 6 credits, the equivalent of having taken Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. For more information about the CLEP test, contact Mark Matalucci at (856) 256-4263 or matalucci@rowan.edu.

Q: What does the STAMP Spanish Placement Exam test?

A: The exam is made up of three sections. The first tests reading comprehension in Spanish. The second section tests writing ability in Spanish. The third section tests speaking ability in Spanish.

Q: Who will score the exam?

A: The STAMP Spanish Placement Exam is a product of a company called Avant Assessment, based in Oregon. Representatives of Avant Assessment score the exams.

Q: How long does the test take to complete, and how will I know when I have finished the test?

A: The STAMP Spanish Placement Exam takes a minimum of 75 minutes to complete. The test is complete after taking the survey at the end. A screen will appear, thanking you for taking the survey. When this screen appears, alert the Language Lab Supervisor, who will verify that you have completed the test.

Q: Is it necessary to finish the test in one sitting?

A: No, it is not necessary to finish the test in one sitting. It is possible to stop the test in the middle and schedule another appointment to finish the test at another time. When logging back in to the test, it is possible to pick up right where the test left off.

Q: How will I hear back about the test result?

A: Dr. Marilyn Manley (manley@rowan.edu) will contact you by e-mail as soon as possible after the date of the test with the test result and a personalized report from Avant Assessment.