

Modern Hebrew Placement Test

The Modern Hebrew Placement Test is for **College of Charleston** students with previous experience in Hebrew who would like to determine which course level is appropriate for their skill (place-in) or would like to prove proficiency in Hebrew to fulfill a language requirement (place-out). If students have no knowledge of Hebrew, or if they only have partial knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet, they are considered “beginners” and should register for **Hebrew 101**. At this level, students are able to copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases. Given adequate time and familiar cues, students can also reproduce from memory a very limited number of isolated words or familiar phrases, but errors are to be expected.

If students are well familiar with the Hebrew alphabet, and can understand with relative ease key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases across a range of contextualized texts, they are considered “advanced beginners” and should register for **Hebrew 102**. At this level, students meet limited basic practical writing, reading, speaking, and listening needs using lists, short messages, postcards, and simple notes; they are able to express themselves within a specific context, relying mainly on practiced material.

At the **201 level**, students can easily understand information if the format of the text is familiar, such as in a weather report or a social announcement. Students are able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by using Hebrew in straightforward social situations. Conversation at this level, for example, is restricted to some of the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture.

Hebrew 202 is designed to improve students’ communicative competence as well as social knowledge about how and when to use utterances appropriately. At this level, students are able to understand short and non-complex texts that convey basic information and deal with social topics to which they bring personal interest or knowledge.

IMPORTANT: If you feel your Hebrew exceeds the 101 level and wish to register for a higher level, you must contact Professor Noa Weinberg and schedule a placement test. The test includes reading comprehension, writing, listening and speaking.

If you feel your Hebrew is at the highest level and you should be placed out of the class, you have two options. You may:

1. Take a placement test with Professor Weinberg (free of charge).
2. Take a Hebrew proficiency test at the language lab at the cost of \$25.00 (see below).

Contact Professor Weinberg at 843.953.7585 or by email at weinbergn@cofc.edu.

Please refer to the **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages’ Proficiency Guide** to learn more about the range of what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context (<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>). The levels of the ACTFL Guidelines describe the continuum of proficiency from that of the highly articulate, well-educated language user to a level of little or no functional ability. The Hebrew placement test, as well as the Hebrew classes at the College of Charleston, follow this proficiency guideline.

The Hebrew placement will be administered at the College of Charleston’s **Language Lab** (ECTR building) throughout the year during regular business hours. The test is proctored by a staff member and must be scheduled in advance. Arrangements may be made with the **Language Lab** (langlab@cofc.edu).

The test measures proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is a web-based and computer-adaptive assessment with real-world questions that test level-appropriate topics and content. The test is scored externally by Avant, a company that employs ACTFL certified raters. Results are typically made available to students within two weeks.

The 2-hour test costs \$25 and may be purchased directly through Avant (<https://avantassessment.ecwid.com/#!/College-of-Charleston/c/15984018>). Please visit Avant’s website (<http://avantassessment.com/avant-stamp4s.html>) to learn more about the test’s guidelines as well as to try a sample test.

The **Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program** at the **College of Charleston** does not offer Classical Hebrew.