

College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature Policy On Hawaiian/Second Language Back Credits

All students (including native speakers of a language) under the current 2001-2005 General Education requirements with experience in another language other than English may earn "back credits." These students may take any UHM course, appropriate to their level, in which there is significant use of that language. (Appropriate level determined by placement exam or adviser; significant use determined by the course content.) Upon completion of this course, if students earn a letter grade of C (not C-) or better, they will receive between 3-16 back credits.

Implementation Guidelines:

1. Eligibility: the back credit policy applies to those who entered the UH system in Fall 2001 or later and are governed by the UHM Graduation Education Requirements adopted then.
2. Transfer credits:
 - a. Non-system transfer credits of language courses higher than 101 level cannot be used as a basis for UHM back credits. Furthermore, students may not earn back credits by continuing course work in a language begun at another institution of higher education.
 - b. Courses taken at other campuses within the UH system *may* be used as a basis for application for back credits. Study abroad credits earned through programs other than with UHM Study Abroad are treated as transfer credits and therefore cannot be used as a basis for back credits.
3. Back credits may be earned for ONLY ONE language and will be based on the first instance of taking a course in that language at UHM. A repeated course is NOT eligible for back credits. The course must be completed with a letter grade of C or better (not C-).
4. Grades: back credits are awarded with no grade assigned.
5. Number of credits: a student may earn from 3 to 16 back credits; 6 to 8 for first year language; and 6 to 8 for second year language.
6. Graduate students: graduate students are eligible to receive back credits for foreign language proficiency in languages taught at UHM.
7. Advanced Placement (AP): students entering with AP credits in a foreign language will be awarded specific course credits depending on the policy of the department in question. Courses awarded AP credits will not be calculated in the back credit total.
8. Forms for students to petition for back credits are available through language course instructors or at language department offices.