George Becker  
Chair, CASP  

September 19, 2005  

Dear George:

The Second Language Acquisition Committee has a couple of recommendations to propose to the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures.

1) As you may know, the foreign language departments award intermediate and sometimes additional higher course credit depending on the AP or IB scores. It has come to our attention that students who receive such AP or IB credit can (and occasionally do) take the first- and/or second-semester courses of that same language for credit without sacrificing their AP credit. This seems to us an abuse that clearly contradicts the whole notion of Advanced Placement.

We therefore recommend that if a student who has received AP or IB credit in French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, or Spanish subsequently takes a first- or second-semester course, that student should lose all of the AP or IB credit previously awarded.

The NCRC (No Credit/Repeat Credit) report already advises students that when they register for the same course for which they have AP or IB credit on their record, their current course selection will result in loss of AP or IB credit already awarded. Presumably it would not be difficult to program that also a lower-numbered course in that language would trigger loss of the upper-level course (or courses) for which AP or IB credit has been awarded. We are not concerned here about a student, for example, taking Spanish 200 or 201 after having received AP credit for both Spanish 104 and 202; rather, we would generate an NCRC specifically for those who take first- or second-semester level courses for which they are clearly overqualified.

2) Similarly, students who have successfully taken an intermediate course on campus should be advised by an NCRC report that they will receive no credit (NC) for subsequently taking a first- or second-semester course in that same language. Likewise, students who have successfully taken a more advanced language course should receive no credit (NC) for subsequently taking a beginning or intermediate level course in that same language. (We would, of course, work with Benjamin Payne in identifying upper-level courses in the department which are not given in the target language to which this rule would obviously not apply.)

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Victoria A. Burrus  
Chair, SLA Committee  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Spanish

(Other members of the committee: Lynn Ramey, French; Daniel Solomon, Classics; Sarah Eigen, German; Earl Fitz, Spanish & Portuguese; Xianmin Liu, Chinese; Fräncille Bergquist, Dean’s Office, ex officio; Gary Johnston, Study Abroad, ex officio)