





# World Languages Pathways for Spanish-Speakers

There are 4 options available to Spanish-speaking students to fulfill the two required World Language credits for graduation:

<p><b>Examen del Sello de Bilingüismo</b> <i>World Language Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computerized exam</li><li>• Earn up to 4 additional high school credits</li><li>• Emphasizes holistic communication instead of isolated grammar and vocabulary</li></ul>	<p><b>Clase de Herencia</b> <i>Spanish for Heritage Speakers Course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Develop and maintain</b> grade level literacy</li><li>• Take the Seal of Biliteracy Test as part of the course (earn up to 4 additional credits)</li></ul>	<p><b>Curso Avanzado Lenguaje y Cultura Hispanohablante</b> <i>AP Spanish Course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most rigorous language course</li><li>• Good option for students that can already speak, read, and write in full sentences or paragraphs</li><li>• Earn university credit</li></ul>	<p><b>Tomar 2 años de otro idioma</b> <i>2 years of other World Language</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Courses vary by school. May include:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Sign Language (ASL)</li><li>• French</li><li>• Japanese</li></ul></li></ul>
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\*A main academic goal of the Heritage class is to **develop and maintain grade-level literacy skills** in Spanish (**Intermediate High – Advanced Low** proficiency). If Spanish-speaking students already have grade-level literacy skills, then AP Spanish might be a good fit.

\*\*It is critical to recommend courses based on academic standards, not on perceived student characteristics (ie. study skills, motivation, etc.) as these perceptions can create barriers and may be based on unconscious bias.

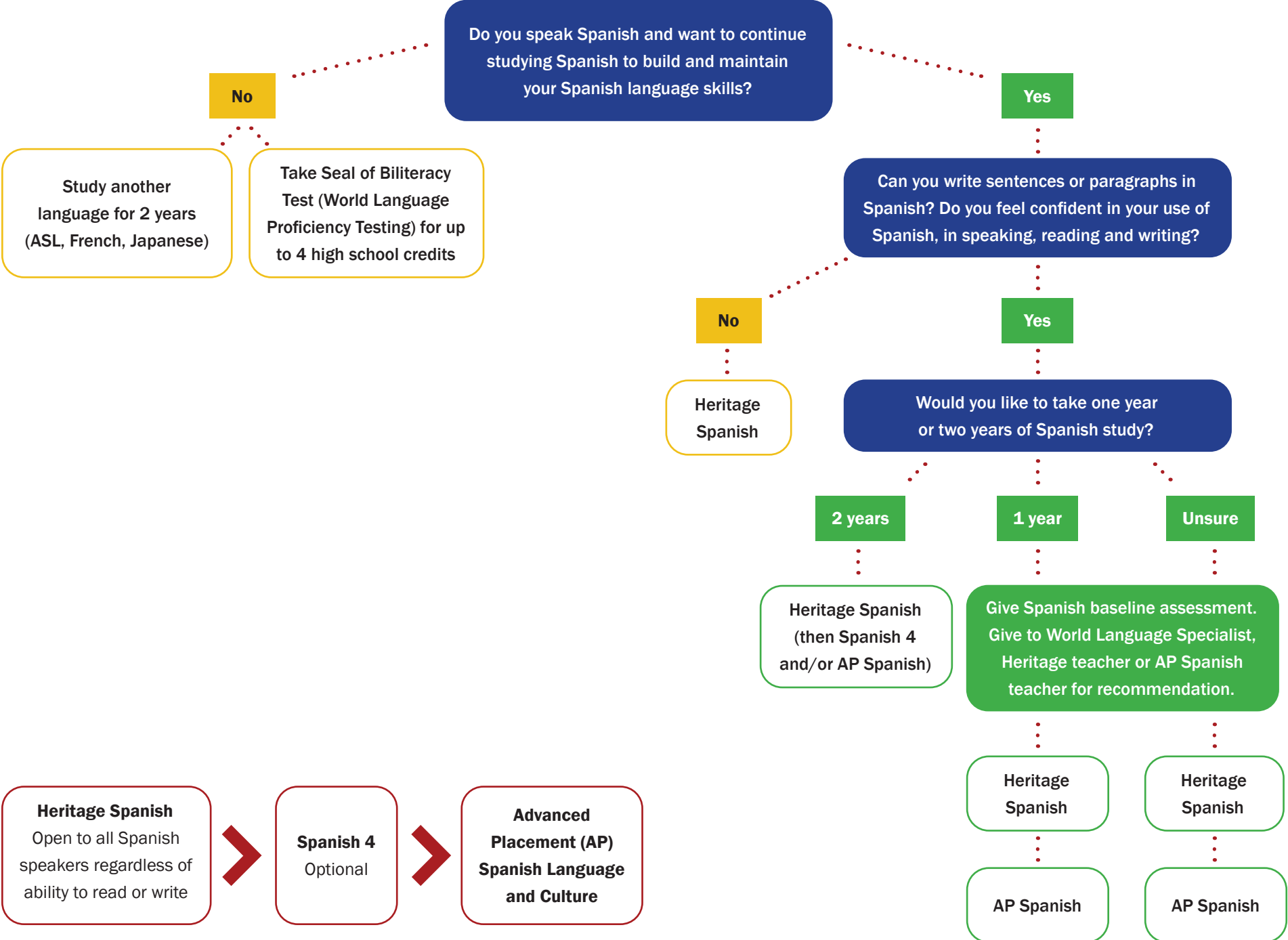
\*\*\*Per Washington State policy, credit is based on overall proficiency level demonstrated in ALL skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking):

- **Novice Mid** proficiency: 1 credit (equivalent to Spanish 1 class seat time)
- **Novice High** proficiency: 2 credits (equivalent to Spanish 2 class seat time)
- **Intermediate Low** proficiency: 3 credits (equivalent to Spanish 3 class seat time)
- **Intermediate Mid+** proficiency: 4 credits (equivalent to Spanish 4 class seat time)

## Notes and Important Considerations

- Always start with a conversation with the student: the pathway should be their choice.
- Heritage and Native speakers have different strengths and needs that are best addressed in a Heritage or AP Spanish class, regardless of their initial proficiency level.
- Spanish 1 – 3 is rarely an appropriate fit for students who have a cultural connection to the language. Language is closely tied to personal identity, and pedagogy and content for Heritage speakers is intentionally designed to be highly culturally responsive. Enrolling Heritage or Native speakers in a Spanish 1 – 3 class may result in boredom, disengagement, and can cause harm to students' sense of cultural and linguistic identity for many reasons.

# Guiding Questions for World Language Pathways for Spanish Speakers



Do you speak Spanish and want to continue studying Spanish to build and maintain your Spanish language skills?

No

Study another language for 2 years (ASL, French, Japanese)

Take Seal of Biliteracy Test (World Language Proficiency Testing) for up to 4 high school credits

Yes

Can you write sentences or paragraphs in Spanish? Do you feel confident in your use of Spanish, in speaking, reading and writing?

No

Heritage Spanish

Yes

Would you like to take one year or two years of Spanish study?

2 years

Heritage Spanish (then Spanish 4 and/or AP Spanish)

1 year

Give Spanish baseline assessment. Give to World Language Specialist, Heritage teacher or AP Spanish teacher for recommendation.

Unsure

Heritage Spanish

AP Spanish

Heritage Spanish

AP Spanish

**Heritage Spanish**  
Open to all Spanish speakers regardless of ability to read or write

**Spanish 4**  
Optional

**Advanced Placement (AP)**  
**Spanish Language and Culture**