

Stanford Language Center Course Attendance Guidelines

Please see syllabi of the respective language program for course-specific details.

Students are to attend and actively participate in all hours of language instruction. In first-year instruction, this means 50 hours per quarter. Unless you are in class to hear spoken language geared to your level of acquisition, you will not acquire the ability to understand and interact in the language.

Language Center guidelines include the record of absences in the overall final grade rather than in the grading scale (i.e., the performance grade). For the first two absences, each absence of one class counts as a 1% deduction from the final grade. Beyond that, each subsequent absence counts as a 2% deduction; i.e., missing a week of class (8%) = a 92% ceiling for calculating a final grade. As an example, a performance grade of 90% with 3 absences is equal to 86% as the final grade.

If a student expects regular or extensive absences from class for some reason (such as athletic performances or job interviews), the Language Center recommends taking a language class during some other quarter.

Students who will miss class for official University-sponsored activities should notify their instructor during the first week of class regarding the date(s) of expected absence(s) and the official activity involved in order to make alternate arrangements. Similarly, emergencies may be accommodated at the instructor's discretion.