

Dear Parents of Spanish Students,

Haydee Kirwan, our wonderful Spanish tutor at Libertas Scholars, has done her due diligence in researching the current FL climate regarding foreign language requirements for college entrance and future NCAA athletes. Her findings, followed by our proposed solution and a call to action for you to follow up, are listed below. You will have to respond to this by July 1, 2019 for your student to remain in the class.

The bottom line is that we cannot predict where the admission or NCAA requirements or admission processes will be in terms of foreign language requirements for specific individual colleges years down the road. You, as the parent overseeing your child's education, must do your own research and ask the appropriate questions to admissions departments of the colleges your students might possibly be attending. We want to keep you informed while at the same time making sure you understand that you as home educating parents take full responsibility for the course selection and any consequences of that choice.

The intention beyond this letter is not to put you in a place of fear or panic. We just feel the need to make sure you are well informed and well prepared as foreign language has historically been the one area which brings question at admission time. Again, Mrs. Kirwan has outlined her findings and we as Libertas Scholars have offered a solution below which will require a response from you, the parent.

Background information/issue: (written by Mrs. Kirwan)

When I started looking for HS Spanish 1 and 2 curriculum, I began reading more and more about college/university foreign language requirements for high school students and the gray areas parents need to be aware of when choosing a class/curriculum. As I researched, I wanted to do my due diligence to choose something which would satisfy colleges and universities admission requirements, be approved by umbrella schools administrators AND meet NCAA requirements. The task became daunting. It is hard to predict what colleges or umbrella schools will accept, yet Libertas wants our best to ensure we make a wise decision when we choose curriculum for our families. Again, my goal was to choose a curriculum that I believe will cover the FL benchmarks to satisfy HS credit, but I cannot guarantee colleges and universities (or umbrella schools) will accept the curriculum or the class given by a co-op as fulfillment of their high school foreign language requirements or for college credit. Because I care about my students and their future plans--their college entrance, degree programs and ability to play NCAA sports--I want to make sure I do my best to inform parents of the potential issues that can come up down the road:

1. Libertas is considered a co-op - many universities/colleges/umbrella schools may not accept a foreign language offered in a co-op environment IF they ask probing questions of the parents. Again, this may or may not take place.
2. Some universities may accept Libertas Spanish class as an entrance requirement but may not accept that credit for the college degree (meaning the student would not get degree credit for the high school course as is currently the case for FLVS and SOME colleges).
3. Many private umbrella coverings may/may not accept the curriculum or the class as satisfying the high school foreign language requirement to graduate from high school.

Solutions:

First of all, as one of our Board members pointed out, if asked, you should always put yourself as the teacher for your student's classes. YOU are the teacher and if you take a Libertas class, you are hiring a native Spanish speaking tutor (through your tuition to Libertas Scholars.) That way, they look to you to answer questions and you are in control.

Second, we have a proposed solution for those who wish to have an accredited foreign language

1. Since no one signed up for Spanish 2, Mrs. Kirwan can teach 2 sections of Spanish 1. One of the classes will simply be Mrs. Kirwan offering tutoring help for those who sign up for the FLVS (Florida Virtual School) High School Spanish I class. IF parents choose this option for their students, it will be the parent's responsibility to sign up with FLVS early enough to be prepared to start the beginning of August. The process of getting into a FLVS class is not instantaneous and will require a couple weeks of lead time to get signed up and make contact with your assigned teacher. Mrs. Kirwan will inform you what to put as your anticipated start date and will make sure that the class stays on the same week and the same assignments together.

For those who don't care about having an accredited foreign language:

2. The second class will be Mrs. Kirwan's carefully and prayerfully chosen curriculum with all the wonderful conversation exercises and fun activities she has planned and that satisfies the FL benchmarks for Spanish 1. IF parents choose this option for their students, the parents must realize that this may or may not be accepted at various colleges for college credit. We need you as the parent to realize that you are responsible for this choice and understand you will need to do your own research for any college bound students based on the schools they are interested in pursuing. Plus, as already stated, it would actually benefit you to say that you, the parent, are the teacher for that class. If questioned, you can honestly say that you hired a native speaking tutor to assist you.

CLARIFICATION: I (Karin Dewey) have also done my own research. From the colleges I contacted and spoke with at FPEA, all of them said they would accept a homeschool foreign language class for entrance to their college. (Please realize the colleges at FPEA are private Christian schools, not FL state colleges. I have yet to do research in that area.) The biggest unknown is whether or not colleges will allow that class to be submitted for college credit, thus exempting your student from taking foreign language in college. The answer to that question varied - sometimes even between different people I spoke to from the same college! If they do accept the foreign language for admission, but they do not accept the class as fulfilling their college foreign language degree requirement, the worst case scenario is that your student takes a foreign language class again in college.

Call to action

With this knowledge, we need to hear from you! We need to know which of the 2 options your student would prefer 1 - a class where Mrs. Kirwan tutors the students through the FLVS school class or 2 - a class with a curriculum Mrs. Kirwan has selected which offers more conversation and related activities. At this time, we plan on offering both. We just need to know which class your child will be taking. Your responsibility is to contact us, Libertas Scholars, at LibertasScholars@gmail.com and inform us of which option your student prefers by July 1, 2019. By responding and registering your student for Mrs. Kirwan's Spanish class, you acknowledge the receipt of this document which is serving as the Libertas Scholars Foreign Language Disclosure Statement.

If you have any questions at all, you may contact Mrs. Kirwan at kirwanhs@gmail.com or any of the Academic Advisers at LibertasScholars@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Karin Dewey
Executive Director

on behalf of Mrs. Kirwan, the Libertas Scholars Board of Directors, and the Academic Advisers