

# Spanish Placement and Exemption Exams at Tri-County Technical College

## I. Overview:

Thank you for your interest in the Spanish Placement and Exemptions Exams at Tri County Technical College. All prospective test takers can only register for **one kind** of exam—placement or exemption. Furthermore, test takers only get **one attempt** at the test they choose. Lastly, if a student has attempted (does not matter if they completed it, dropped it, or withdrew from it) a Spanish course at TCTC, they are **not eligible** to take the placement or exemption exams at TCTC. Before making your decision, please read this document closely as it will cover pertinent information about both exams.

### Important Information for New Bridge Students:

For new Bridge students (Fall 2023), if you need the credits to count towards Bridge hours, you must take the Exemption Exam after high school graduation.

## II. Which Test Should I Register For—Placement Exam or Exemption Exam?

### Placement Exam:

The Placement Test allows the student to skip over a course or two depending upon the knowledge the student is able to show based on the skills/knowledge that the student learned from High School Spanish courses. The test is free and available on demand by emailing Crystal Chemel ([cchemel@tctc.edu](mailto:cchemel@tctc.edu)). The test is a combination of grammatical knowledge, reading skills, and writing skill levels. The Placement Test does not provide any GPA or credit hours that a student can use for the Clemson Bridge Program or transferring to another institution. Courses that have been skipped through Placement Tests do not show up on transcripts. The Placement Test can be taken only once and must be taken before starting the first foreign language course. No dictionaries or notes are allowed during the test. The student must complete the test in one sitting, and the student has two hours to complete the test.

### Exemption Exam:

The Exemption Exam allows the student earn college credit for a course. Grammatical knowledge, vocabulary, reading skills, and writing skill levels are tested. Students can only register for one test at a time. Current exemption exam offerings:

SPA 101 Exemption Exam

SPA 102 Exemption Exam

SPA 201 Exemption Exam

SPA 202 Exemption Exam

### Registering for The Exams:

Students wishing to take the Spanish placement test or Spanish exemption exam will contact Crystal Chemel [cchemel@tctc.edu](mailto:cchemel@tctc.edu) (preferred) or 646-1673. **Students must be enrolled at the college with a T number in order to register for either test option.**

## III. Important Information Pertaining to Placement and Exemption Exams:

### **i. Cost of Exams:**

The placement test is free and can only be taken once.

The exemption exam costs \$75 per test. At the moment, the cashier's office only accepts cash payments for exemption exam. Note: Students cannot register for an exemption exam until the proper paperwork has been completed and the \$75 fee has been paid and credited to your account. **An email copy of the receipt must be sent to Crystal Chemel (cchemel@tctc.edu) before the student can be registered for the exam.**

### **ii. Testing Location and Times:**

The test is administered through Blackboard at the TCTC Testing Center located in Ruby Hicks Hall Room 170. The Testing Center is open when the College is in session (Monday-Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm and Friday from 8:00am - 2:00pm). Students who wish to take any tests are encouraged to arrive two hours before the center is scheduled to close. All students who take any test in the Testing Center must provide a government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or student ID.

The Testing Center is not currently offering any virtual proctoring for the Spanish Placement or Exemption test. We do not recommend students to take the exam on a Friday because Blackboard maintenance generally takes place at the end of the week (see below IT calendar).

For more information visit the Testing center Website <https://www.tctc.edu/programs/academic-resources/assessment-center/> or call 864-646-1300.

### **iii. Grading:**

Both placement and exemption exams are evaluated by the Spanish faculty at Tri County Technical College. Results are usually ready in two business days. Students will be contacted by Crystal Chemel with their results **via TCTC email**. Again, test takers must be TCTC students (valid T-number) in order to take placement and exemptions exams.

The evaluation methods are different for each test.

**Placement Test:** Placement is based on grammatical knowledge, reading skills, and listening skill levels you have mastered so we can better place you into the correct course. The students will not receive a score, rather the level of Spanish that the student can register for based on performance. Students cannot retake a placement test; however, the student can choose to start with SPA 101 regardless of the test results. If a Placement test score allows a student to take SPA 102 but the student chooses to take SPA 101, the student cannot later change classes. Once classes have begun, the student cannot change their minds and ask to move to a higher-level course.

**Exemption Exam:** Students taking the Exemption Exams must earn a grade of 70 or higher. If the test taker fails the exemption exam, they will not be allowed to retake it. However, if a student passes the exemption exam for their specified level, they can register for the next level exam (\$75 test fee) or register for the next level course. **Important Reminder: All testing must be completed before taking any courses.**

When a student has passed the Exemption Exam, the student earns the credit hours for the course(s) the student exempted: SPA 101 (4 hours), SPA 102 (4 Hours), SPA 101/102 (8 hours), SPA 201 (3 hours), SPA 202 (3 hours), SPA 201/202 (6 hours). These credit hours count toward Bridge Hours and are entered on the student's official transcript, but **no GPA is earned through exemption exams.**

## **VI. How Can I Prepare for The Exams?**

Study your notes from Spanish classes in high school and middle school and familiarize yourself with the topics taught in Spanish classes at TCTC. Provided below are the scope and sequence for the Spanish classes taught at TCTC.

If you are not familiar with Blackboard, you need to review this handout for important information.

<https://www.tctc.edu/media/6173/tctc-bb-basics-handout-for-students.pdf>

### **SPA 101**

**Textbook: Plazas    Chapters: preliminary -4**

#### **Major Course Topics:**

- **Grammar topics:**  
Nouns, subject pronouns, the verb form hay, definite and indefinite articles, possessive and descriptive adjectives, present tense of the verbs “ser”, “estar”, “tener”, “gustar”, “saber” and “conocer”, and irregular verbs (stem changing verbs), present progressive, and affirmative “tú” commands
- **Vocabulary topics:**  
Greetings and good-byes, numbers, interrogative words, classroom items, months, seasons, weather expressions, the colors, question words, foreign languages, academic courses and majors, university places and buildings, time and the days of the week, family, adjectives (physical features, personality and nationalities), sports and leisure activities, home, furniture, appliances, and household chores.

### **SPA 102**

**Textbook: Plazas    Chapters: 5-8**

#### **Major Course Topics:**

- **Vocabulary**  
The human body, health care (including illnesses, symptoms, and medical treatments), food (beverages, and table utensils, dining out), clothing and fashion, shopping, parties and celebrations, and the beach and the countryside.
- **Grammar**  
Reflexive pronouns and present tense of reflexive verbs, acabar de + infinitive, ser vs estar, demonstrative adjectives and pronouns, comparatives and superlatives, regular verbs and verbs with spelling changes in the preterite, verbs with stem changes in the preterite, hace + period of time, stressed possessive adjectives and pronouns, direct object pronouns, the imperfect, interrogative words, the preterite vs the imperfect, and affirmative and negative expressions, working knowledge of materials / topics covered from 101 – 201.

### **SPA 201**

**Textbook: Plazas    Chapters: 9-12**

**Major Course Topics:**

- **Grammar topics:**

Indirect and double object pronouns, formal commands and negative “tú” commands, the present perfect tense, reciprocal constructions, adverbs and adverbial expressions of time and sequencing of events, relative pronouns, “por” and “para”, the present subjunctive with statements of volition, verbs of emotion, impersonal expressions, “ojalá” and verbs or expressions of doubt and uncertainty, and adjective clauses, working knowledge of materials / topics covered from 101 - 102.

- **Vocabulary topics:**

Travel and vacations (airplane, hotel and transportation), stages of life, celebrations(receptions), professions and jobs, the office and the job hunt, personal finances, geography and the environment, and animals.

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**SPA 202**

**Textbook: Plazas    Chapters: 13-15**

**Major Course Topics:**

- **Grammar topics:**

Review of the Present Indicative tense, No-fault se construction, The future tense, The conditional tense, The future tense, El conditional tense, The present perfect subjunctive, The Subjunctive versus the Indicative Moods and past subjunctive, working knowledge of materials / topics covered from 101 – 201.

- **Vocabulary topics:**

- Television Programs and Movies
- The arts
- Politics and Voting
- Political Issues and The Media
- Technological Advancements
- The Computer

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