

Chinese Placement Exam Instructions 2026-2027

Dear Students,

The Chinese placement test has three portions: a handwritten essay, a multiple choice test, and an oral interview. The essay and multiple choice test are available online via Google forms, which allows you to take them at your convenience before arriving on campus. Oral interviews will also be held on Zoom before you arrive for orientation. Your course placement will be determined based on a combination of all three parts.

It is important to emphasize that the placement test is for diagnostic purposes only. This diagnostic tool may be supplemented by your instructor's evaluation during the first week of classes, at which time they may recommend a change in registration.

The test must represent your own work. When taking it, you will be bound by Smith College's Academic Honor Code. Please also note that no dictionary, textbook, or online resources can be used during your test. Should you have any questions about your placement test, please email chineseprogram@smith.edu

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The test is accessible by the links below. We recommend that you complete the written and multiple choice portions by the end of the day on Sunday, August 30, 2026 (before the Zoom interviews). However, you can still take the test afterward.

2. The link to the essay questions and multiple choice test is below. You may use either the simplified or the traditional character version. You must write the essay and take the multiple choice test at the same time; please allow one hour to complete both. You will write the essay on your own piece of paper, take a picture, and upload it to the form.

[Link to Simplified Character Version](#)

[Link to Traditional Character Version](#)

3. Oral interviews will be held on Zoom on Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1. You can access the sign-up sheet [here](#). If none of the time slots work for you, there will also be an in-person interview opportunity during orientation. Please email chineseprogram@smith.edu for details.

The instructions below will also be on the Google Form:

1. You must write the essay and take the multiple choice test at the same time; please allow about one hour to complete them.

2. You will write the essay on your own piece of paper, take a picture, and upload it to the form. Before starting, make sure you have a pencil, paper, and something to take a photo with. If you forget any characters, you can also write the *pinyin*.

3. The multiple choice questions are arranged from easy to hard. Please answer the questions for which you know the correct answer and those for which you can make an educated guess. If you do not understand the question at all, please leave it blank. After leaving several questions blank in a row, you can leave everything else blank - keep hitting "next" at the end of each section until you get to the end of the test, and then click "Submit."

4. Be sure to click "Submit" at the end of the test.

5. Your score will be available to you immediately upon submitting the test. Don't worry about the number - your score is not a grade; rather, it indicates which level of Chinese might be a good fit for you. The Chinese Program of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures will also be able to view your score.