

**Princeton University**  
**Department of Spanish and Portuguese**  
**SPANISH READING PROFICIENCY EXAM**

**Tips to prepare for the exam**

a) Taking courses at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

To assist the language departments in placing students in the appropriate course, we strongly encourage them to take the on-line placement test that is offered every summer through Blackboard.

Princeton University Graduate School does not offer Spanish language courses as a part of their Summer Language Program.

b) Reviewing textbooks.

Spanish 207, which is the course corresponding to the ACTFL Advanced Mid level, uses *A Handbook of Contemporary Spanish Grammar*, published by Vista. It is a programmed textbook giving an overview of Spanish grammar with self-corrected exercises.

Apart from language books, students are encouraged to peruse a book on translation, such as *Thinking Spanish Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Spanish to English*, published by Routledge, or *Manual of Spanish-English Translation*, published by Pearson.

c) Practice.

Students can practice by reading and translating, keeping in mind that they are expected to translate around 500 words: a 250-word passage from a literary work, typically a contemporary novel or a short story, and a 250-passages from a secondary source, typically a scholarly journal, in the candidate's area of study. Candidates have two hours to complete the translation and may use a dictionary.