

Bennington College  
May 25, 1950

Memorandum to all counselors:

The Literature Faculty has recently revised the statement on prerequisites for a major in Literature (as included in the Announcement and in the Handbook of Procedures for Counselors) to indicate that all Literature majors will be expected to have an adequate reading knowledge of one foreign language.

Majors will be expected to indicate that they have done this at some time before graduation. They will usually be judged by their ability to interpret some fairly advanced literary text.

If a student has to begin the study of a language on an elementary level, it will clearly be desirable that she start as soon as possible, and that she understand that she is asked to do this in order that she may have another valuable tool in the study of literature, and an essential perspective on the literature of England or America.

It is requested that all counselors explain this procedure to any prospective Literature majors. The requirements of the faculty may be satisfied either by taking courses or by extracurricular study. But the student should give serious thought to the question which of the modern languages is most likely to fit in with her interests and possible future needs.