



Modern Language

College of Liberal Studies

Learning a modern language is highly rewarding for its own sake. The pleasure of being able to communicate with people from another culture, to read their literature, and to understand their society lasts a lifetime. Giving yourself the gift of a second or third language is like giving yourself another way of looking at the world. Traveling is far more rewarding when you can speak with the people.

Furthermore, learning a foreign language is fast becoming a necessary job skill in its own right. As the global market place expands throughout the 21st century, businesses' need for personnel who can communicate in French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Russian will only increase. Adding a skill in one or more of the major foreign languages taught at UW-La Crosse will enhance your career opportunities. Adding a study abroad experience to your college "portfolio" will strengthen your language skills and add a dynamic dimension to your resume after graduation.

The Department of Modern Languages grants retroactive credits for high school language experience based on students entering the appropriate level and receiving an "A" or "B" in their initial foreign language course. This policy rewards students for the work they put into developing skills in one or more foreign languages prior to university study. Students may earn from four to 16 retroactive credits depending on the level of language class they complete.

In addition to majors in French and Spanish, the department offers an interdisciplinary major in German Studies as well as certificates in French Studies and Russian Studies. Language majors can be complemented by a minor in International Studies with an emphasis in Latin American Studies, European Studies or Asian Studies. The department also works closely with the Center for Latin American Studies at UW-Milwaukee.

Undergraduate Programs

Majors:

- French*
- French with Business Concentration
- German Studies*
- German Studies with Business Concentration
- Spanish*
- Spanish with Business Concentration

Minors:

- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)*
 - French*
 - German*
 - International Studies
 - International Studies with a European Emphasis
 - International Studies with a Latin American Emphasis
 - Spanish*
- *Teacher certification available*

Additional Language Courses:

- Russian
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Hmong

Certificate Programs:

- French Studies
- Russian Studies

Department Features

Using the Wisconsin Regional Placement Test as a guide for placement, students who enter with previous training from high school and earn a B or better in a foreign language course other than 101 may receive the prerequisite credit for the levels preceding the course they take in one or more languages. The following table illustrates this policy:

	Prerequisite credits	Course credits	Total
Elementary Language II (102)	4	4	8
Intermediate Language I (201)	8	4	12
Intermediate Language II (202)	12	4	16
Any advanced course except Phonetics	16	2-3	18-19

The Department of Modern Languages at UW-La Crosse participates in the Amity Institute Program that each year brings five

young international scholars to campus to work with students in French, German, and Spanish.

The department encourages foreign study. Each year there are many students who study abroad to enrich their background and improve their proficiency in the language. Exchange programs between UW-La Crosse and France, Germany, Spain and Mexico are available. In addition, UW-La Crosse students can study at universities in over 60 countries through the International Student Exchange Program.

An international internship is an opportunity for those who also have a business major or concentration to gain valuable experience. Courses in Business French, Business German, and Business Spanish are offered in the department.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages minor

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages minor is for teachers at the elementary, secondary, and adult levels. This minor is acceptable for teaching English as a second language only, and not for teaching English to native speakers of English in the public schools.

Sample Courses

- Elementary Language
- Intermediate Language
- Advanced Language
- Literature
- Advanced Conversation
- Advanced Grammar and Syntax
- Film
- History
- Current Events
- Independent Study

Career Opportunities

Entry Level

- High School Teacher (with teacher certification)
- Study Abroad Advisor
- International Sales Representative
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- English Teacher Abroad
- Retail Manager
- Marketing Consultant

Further Study

- Graduate study in foreign languages, political science, international business, linguistics, education
- Law School

Long Term Career Development

- Diplomat
- Foreign Service Officer
- Historian
- International Finance Manager
- Lawyer (with law degree)
- Linguist
- Translator
- College Professor
- Journalist

Occupational Outlook

The economic expansion of other countries makes travel to the U.S. within the grasp of more Europeans and Asians than ever before. The United States Travel Service, the American Hotel and Motel Association, the Port Authority of New York, Travelodge International and the United States Office of Education are developing programs to place bilingual personnel in key positions with airlines, hotels and police.

All students are encouraged to complete a major in addition to a language major. Proficiency in a second language is a useful adjunct to many other careers and a “plus” in the job market.

Job Titles of Graduates

- Accountant
- Hospital Administrator
- Hotel Administrator in South America
- Import-export Dealer
- Sales Representative
- Social Worker
- Teacher of French, German, or Spanish
- Travel Agent
- Career Services Counselor
- Assistant Director of Marketing
- Bilingual Secretary

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