



# Global Cultures and Languages

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES

## Undergraduate Programs

### MAJORS:

- French\*
- French Education (EC-A, MC-EA)
- French with Business Concentration
- German Studies\* (EC-A, MC-EA)
- German Studies Education
- German Studies with Business Concentration
- Spanish\*
- Spanish Education (EC-A, MC-EA)
- Spanish with Business Concentration

### MINORS:

- Chinese
- French
- French Education (EC-A, MC-EA)
- German Studies
- German Studies Education (EC-A, MC-EA)
- Japanese Studies
- Spanish
- Spanish Education (EC-A, MC-EA)

\*Teacher certification available

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

- French Studies
- Russian Studies

### ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE COURSES:

- Arabic
- Japanese
- Hmong (for Heritage Speakers)

### PLACEMENT TEST

All incoming students must take the placement exam in order to take a language course, regardless of AP or Dual Credit programs taken in high school. The Wisconsin Regional Placement Test will provide faculty a guide for helping students enroll in the course that best suits their proficiency level. Once a student earns a B or better in a foreign language course higher than 101, s/he may receive retroactive credit (up to 12-16!) for the levels preceding the course for which a B was earned.

## Department Overview

The Department of Global Cultures and Languages is committed to developing student's linguistic and cultural competence, including effective communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills. From entry-level language and content courses through in-depth study of cultural aspects such as film, literature, history, art, architecture, economics, language, and lives of peoples and cultures around the world, GCL prepares students to engage in, contribute to, and serve constantly evolving and diverse regional, national, and world communities.

Faculty members in the department not only engage students in questioning our global society but they also model leadership and contribution to the communities themselves. This engagement is reflected through effective and innovative methodologies for the learning of a second language.

### UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Students who study global cultures and languages have a variety of opportunities to immerse themselves in the languages and cultures of their interest. On campus many language sections offer students language clubs or conversation groups to practice speaking and contribute to a community of like-minded learners. French and Spanish students with excellent GPAs can participate in honor societies. Students can also participate in undergraduate research projects and find employment and internship opportunities in the La Crosse community for which language skills are required.

The Department of Global Cultures and Languages strongly encourages all its majors and minors to study abroad. Each year students who do so not only enrich their background, improve their proficiency in the language, and further develop their cross-cultural knowledge, they also return to campus having earned credit toward their majors and some even earn general education credit. Students who study abroad work with both the Department of Global Cultures and Languages and International Education & Engagement to choose a program that works best for the student's interests and goals.

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

Global Cultures and Languages Department

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[www.uwlax.edu/languages](http://www.uwlax.edu/languages)

View degree requirements:

[www.uwlax.edu/catalog](http://www.uwlax.edu/catalog)

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### Undergraduate Research

Faculty in the Department of Global Cultures and Languages support undergraduate research and work with students to research, write, and present at regional and national undergraduate conferences, as well as the annual UWL Celebration of Student Research and Creativity. Students have received grants and/or completed research on topics such as: Friendship and les Femmes: French Language Attitudes among High School Students in Rabat (Morocco); The Representation of Algerian Women in the Works of Malika Mokeddem and Tahar Djaout; “Bandoneon:” Creating Parallels between Music and Life; “Understanding, Experiencing, and Appreciating Shrimp: A Narrative of the Shrimp Farming Industry of Coastal Ecuador”; Mexican Immigrant Challenges in the United States Public School System: A case study of two schools; “Awareness Through Performance: Finding the Latino Voice.”

### Sample Courses

We offer elementary to advanced course languages, both in the target language and in English. Here are a few that makes us unique:

#### French

- French Professional Communication
- Sound, Speech, and Proficiency

#### Chinese

- Introduction to Modern Chinese Literature
- Business Chinese

#### German

- Philosophy
- Pop Culture

#### Spanish

- Reporting and Publishing News in Spanish
- Reading for Language Proficiency

### Occupational Outlook

The economic expansion of other countries makes travel to the U.S. within the grasp of more world citizens 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.

The globalized nature of today’s world means that citizens must be prepared to interact both within the United States and abroad with speakers of other languages in multiple cultural contexts. Such rise has been seen in the increased need for translators, interpreters, and cultural liaisons in hospitals, clinics, schools, and other governmental facilities.

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

### Career Opportunities

#### ENTRY LEVEL

##### Educational Services

- High School Teacher (with teacher certification)
- Study Abroad Advisor

##### Marketing & Business

- International Sales Representative
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Retail Manager
- Marketing Consultant

#### FURTHER STUDY

- Graduate study in foreign languages, political science, international business, intercultural communication, linguistics, education
- Law school

#### LONG-TERM CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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

#### JOB TITLES OF GRADUATES

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