

FRENCH

The French major provides opportunities to study the language, literature and culture of France. The study of foreign languages provides insight into the language, thought, and character of other cultures and is essential to an understanding of other parts of the world.

An education in foreign languages is vital preparation for a growing list of careers that extends beyond the options of translating, interpreting and teaching. Language is viewed as a valuable auxiliary skill which can be applied in such areas as banking, publishing, law, international trade, marketing, journalism, diplomacy, communications, library science, social services and travel and tourism.

TYPICAL SKILLS

Speaking to groups Reading/Writing another language
Reporting and editing Clarifying ideas
Writing clearly Reading for content and structure
Understanding historical language Explaining complex concepts
Communicating between cultures Reading critically
Interpreting data Assessing needs
Evaluating information Evaluating evidence
Weighing values Comparing translation interpretations
Gathering information Summarizing ideas
Working with research subjects Determining needs of others
Understanding cultural diversity Adapting to other cultures
Listening carefully Interviewing non-judgmentally

TYPICAL JOBS

EVENT PLANNER

Plans and produces well-executed conventions, meetings, seminars, expositions, social functions and theme parties. May be responsible for program development, marketing, promotion, budgeting, site selection, negotiation, travel arrangements, entertainment and food arrangements, guest speakers, audio-visual equipment, public relations and program evaluation. In smaller companies, work ranges from planning large community events to planning local weddings.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Assists passengers aboard aircraft to make flight safe, comfortable and enjoyable. Ensures passenger safety and provides assistance in emergencies. Cares for and assists ill, injured and incapacitated passengers and administers first aid in compliance with government and company regulations.

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

Conducts relations with foreign governments and international organizations. Pursues U.S. foreign policy objectives. Protects and assists U.S. citizens abroad. Disseminates information about the United States. Serves at diplomatic/consular posts abroad, and at the Department of State in Washington, DC, or foreign service office in New York. Specialities may be administrative, political, economic, information, public diplomacy, cultural/public affairs.

HISTORIAN

Studies the past, how and why changes occurred and their long-term effects. Historians teach in college, research and write; they usually concentrate on a period and/or geographic area, or on one kind of history (economic, military etc.). They work in museums, historical sites/parks/societies, government agencies and archives (both public and private).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SPECIALIST

Plans, implements and facilitates the exporting/importing of goods or services to/from foreign markets. Most work in companies engaged in international trade; many work in federal/state government, port authorities and public utilities; some work in trade associations and major accounting firms; others are independent consultants.

INTERPRETER

Listens to statements made in one language, analyzes and renders them in another. Work may involve specialized vocabulary and procedures. As in the past, many work in (or under contract to) institutions such as United Nations agencies, US Departments of State, Commerce and Agriculture, international corporations, international conference organizers, escort services etc.

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

Helps librarian acquire, prepare and organize library materials. Assists users in locating periodicals, books, reference books, audio or video tapes or with various library technologies such as automated databases, virtual libraries and the Internet.

NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE JOURNALIST

Collects and analyzes information about newsworthy events to write stories for newspapers and magazines. Receives assignments or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story idea. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story through interview, observation and research.

TEACHER

Instructs middle, junior high or high school students in such subject areas as social studies, history, geography, civics (government) and economics. In some schools, may teach language, philosophy, religious studies, psychology, sociology, current issues, anthropology or ethnic studies.

TRAVEL AGENT

Provides information and advice on all aspects of travel. Sells and/or reserves air, land and sea transportation and lodging accommodations for business and pleasure travelers. May specialize in one area--group, business, leisure or cruise travel, one type of vacation or may be a destination specialist with expert knowledge of a particular geographic region.

HIRING ORGANIZATIONS

Advertising agencies Language institutes
 Airlines Libraries
 Banks Publishing companies
 City, county and state government Research and educational institutes
 Federal government Retailers
 Film industry Social Services agencies
 Hotels Travel agencies
 Insurance companies United Nations
 International service organizations Universities and Colleges

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

Agency for International Development <http://www.usaid.gov/>
 Central Intelligence Agency <http://www.cia.gov/>
 Department of Defense <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>
Federal Bureau of Investigation <http://www.fbi.gov/>
Immigration and Naturalization Service <http://www.ins.gov/>
Peace Corps <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>
United Nations <http://www.un.org/>
United States Information Agency <http://usinfo.state.gov/>

WEBSITES: JOB INFO

MISCELLANEOUS

Foreign Language

[American Association of Language Specialists](#)

[American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)

[American Translators Association](#)

[Information Center for the United Nations](#)

[Institute of International Education](#)

[National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators](#)

[Foreign Policy Association Student Corner](#)

[English as a Second Language](#)

[One Small Planet](#)

[Overseas Employment Opportunities](#)

[Overseas Jobs](#)

[Bilingual Jobs](#)

[English as a Second Language Job Center](#)

[American Translators Association](#)

[The Riley Guide International Resources](#)

[Department of State](#)

[Lat Pro](#)

[Trabajos \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Electronic Network for Latin American Careers and Employment](#)

[Peace Corps](#)

[Flight Attendant from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Teachers-Postsecondary from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

**For more information, consult the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE FRENCH SECTION OF
CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES website:
<http://modernlanguages.louisville.edu/french/index.php>**

Classical and Modern Languages is an umbrella over several language disciplines: it is possible to major in [French](#), and/or [Spanish](#). Courses are also offered in [Chinese](#), [German](#), [Greek](#), [Italian](#), [Latin](#), [Portuguese](#) and, [Russian](#). These disciplines promote the study of the language, literature and culture of foreign countries where that language is used. Students learn to understand, speak, read, and write their chosen language and to appreciate the literature and culture of their language area.

Our faculty is committed to excellence in teaching, and we hope you will enjoy taking courses in our department. Learning a foreign language is an important part of basic education. In our classes, we will help you learn to speak and read a foreign language, and also teach you something about life and culture in foreign countries. As an added benefit, you will gain a better understanding of your own language and culture. You will even find language useful in your career. The connection between foreign languages and jobs is becoming increasingly important. Today's job market is difficult, but if you have a skill - plus a foreign language - your chances of finding an interesting job are often better than those of someone who has no language skills at all. With greater involvement in international business by U.S. companies, a language background is a vital and valuable preparation for a rewarding career. In addition, language brings the world closer, travel becomes more pleasurable, literature and art more meaningful. By learning a foreign language, you make a sound investment in yourself and in your life.

The world is full of languages. How far do you have to go from your front door to know that this is true? Think about the newspapers and books to read, movies and TV programs to watch, Web sites to visit, people and places to know with another language!

A Competitive Edge

Studying a second language can improve skills and grades in math and English and can improve exam scores--GREs, MCATs, and LSATs. Research has shown that math and verbal scores climb higher with each additional year of foreign language study, which means that the longer one studies a foreign language, the stronger the skills become to succeed in school. Studying a foreign language improves analytic and interpretive capacities.

The Job Advantage in a Global Economy

More and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries. They need many different kinds of workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures. No matter what the career, a second language is a real advantage. A technician who knows Russian or German, the head of a company who knows Japanese or Spanish, or a salesperson who knows French or Chinese can work successfully with many more people and in many more places than someone who knows only one language.

There are lots of Americans who speak languages other than English. Students who think of being a nurse, a doctor, a police officer, a judge, an architect, a businessperson, a singer, a plumber, or a Web master, multiply their chances for success if they speak more than one language. A hotel manager or a customer-service representative who knows English and Spanish or English and Korean will be more successful than one who knows only English.

Professionals who know other languages are called on to travel and exchange information with people in other countries throughout their careers. Knowing more than one language enhances opportunities in government, business, medicine and health care, law enforcement, teaching, technology, the military, communications, industry, social service, and marketing. An employer sees employees who know a second language as a bridge to new clients or customers.

Learning Other Cultures: The World and Beyond

Visit entirely new worlds! Get an insider's view of another culture and a new view of your own.

Connect with other cultures. Knowledge of other cultures will help students expand their personal horizons and become responsible citizens. The ability to talk to others and gather information beyond the world of English will contribute to our community and to our country.

Go for the Excitement: New Ways of Language Learning

What can students expect? Students will learn a second language in exciting new ways using technology and focusing on communication or speaking. Learning a language is not just learning grammar and vocabulary. It is learning new sounds, expressions, and ways of seeing things; it is learning how to function in another culture, how to know a new community from the inside out.

How much can students learn? Depending on how long students study, they can gain different levels of fluency. Don't worry; they're not expected to sound like native speakers. To a greater or lesser degree students will, however, be understood, get where they want to go, read magazines or books for information or pleasure, and meet and talk with a whole new group of people. It's a great experience! Of course, it doesn't happen overnight. Like math, English, or other subjects, language learning takes time.

Should students continue language study after high school? Yes! In fact, students who learned a language in high school can use that study to get credit at UofL thanks to the Placement Exam. Contact Testing Services for information about these exams (852-6606)