

Foreign Languages

[At UW-Eau Claire]

UW-Eau Claire's Foreign Language Department is the second largest in the Midwest and boasts 35-40 faculty and over 700 students who are studying majors or minors in foreign languages. If you want to do more than just learn a language truly immerse yourself in another culture, then UW-Eau Claire is the choice for you! Our goal is to instill the cultural sensitivity and multi-cultural proficiency that goes along with your bilingual or multilingual degree.

Cultural coursework

As a foreign language major you'll have two years of basic language in French, German or Spanish followed by coursework in advanced composition and conversation, civilization, literature, and phonetics, as well as courses in business foreign language. Instruction at all levels emphasizes practical usage combined with a solid liberal arts education with an emphasis on cross-cultural understanding. The department also prepares K-12 teachers in the fields of French, German, Spanish and TESOL.

Practice makes perfect

Practice in the Roma Hoff Instructional Resource Center (RHIRC) is a required part of elementary, intermediate, conversation, and phonetics courses in modern foreign languages. The center provides access to foreign language sound and video programs, foreign films, and computer-assisted foreign language instruction. In addition students have access to very active advising in the Instructional Language Lab.



Going global

The faculty members in the Foreign Language Department are facilitators for global education. The department serves a mini United Nations at the university as the professors try to model an international community for students. In addition, most language majors take advantage of UW-Eau Claire's outstanding study abroad opportunities with at least a semester program. We offer nearly

50 programs in 30+ countries, and one in four students (regardless of major) studies abroad!

Research opportunities

Typically there are three to ten research grants given through the Foreign Languages Department each year. Students at all levels have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty in linguistics and international literature, culture, history and politics. The research is representative of top notch graduate level work, and most students are published. Recent research has included translating the diary of an early 1800's German immigrant and creating a curriculum to teach English to migrant farm workers across the state.

To learn more about the Eau Claire Advantage go to www.uwec.edu/advantage



My professors here at Eau Claire are really passionate about providing us with the full French experience in language and culture. Thanks to my time here and my study abroad experience, I've developed a deep appreciation for this beautiful, complex language and for the rich cultural personality behind it. -Astri

[our graduates]

Typical foreign language graduates work in a variety of different fields. This includes working in international business, working

with corporations in cities with significant minority populations, working in the travel industry, teaching a foreign language in the United States or abroad, teaching English as a foreign language overseas (with a TEFL minor), serving

in a governmental agency (Peace Corps, Armed Forces, Foreign Services, etc.), increasing international collaboration in the health industry, or continuing education towards a master's or doctoral degree.

[Majors & Minors]

- French - liberal arts
- French - teaching
- German - liberal arts
- German - teaching
- German - liberal arts with business/profession emphasis
- Japanese - liberal arts (minor only)
- Spanish - liberal arts
- Spanish - teaching
- Spanish - liberal arts with business/professions emphasis
- TESOL - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- TEFL - Teaching English as a Foreign Language

[Special programs]

- English as a Second Language courses for international students.
- Latin American Studies (see separate Fact Sheet) offers three majors and a minor.
- Russia/East European Studies minor.
- Ancient Studies minor.
- The German section administers international recognized Goethe-Institut certificate exams in German (Deutsch Mittelstufe) and business German (Deutsch für den Beruf).
- Other: First-year instruction in Chinese, Latin, Greek, Hmong and Russian.

Retroactive credits

Students may obtain credit for previous non-college language experience by taking a "confirming course." Based on the results of the foreign language placement test and previous language study, the student enrolls in the appropriate UW-Eau Claire course. If the student earns a grade of B or better, he or she can receive credit for work at the levels lower than the confirming course.

Did you know?

Starting salaries for students graduating with proficiency in one or more foreign languages are at least 20 percent higher than for students who speak English only.

note:

First year students are strongly advised to take a foreign language course and not wait until later semesters. This way they may continue with their language training obtained in high school and/or further develop their foreign language skills and enhance their study abroad options.

for more information

For more information about the foreign language program:
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