UW-Eau Claire’s languages department is the second largest in the Midwest with 30 faculty and staff and more than 700 students studying majors, minors or certificates in a second language. If you want to do more than just learn a language, then UW-Eau Claire is the choice for you! Our goal is to instill the cultural sensitivity and multicultural proficiency that goes along with your bilingual or multilingual degree.

Majors
- French - Liberal Arts
- French - Teaching
- German - Teaching
- German - Business Professions
- German - Liberal Arts
- Spanish - Teaching
- Spanish - Liberal Arts
- Spanish - Teaching, Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence
- Spanish - Teaching
- Spanish - Liberal Arts
- Spanish - Health Professions

Certificates
- French - Proficiency
- German - Proficiency
- Hmong Studies
- Ojibwe Language
- Ancient Studies
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Minors
- Japanese - Liberal Arts
- French - Liberal Arts
- French - Teaching, Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence
- French - Teaching
- German - Teaching
- German - Teaching, Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence
- Ancient Studies
- German - Liberal Arts

Contact Info:
Languages
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“Learning a language is a lifelong challenge. It builds confidence and opens your world to more possibilities. While helping me discover my passion for languages, the professors at UWEC have shown me that there's always room for growth and improvement. They're great facilitators who all share a passion for languages.”
— Seth | German

Prepared for Success
Foreign language graduates work in a variety of fields, including working with corporations in cities with significant minority populations, teaching a foreign language in the United States or abroad, teaching English as a foreign language overseas (with a TEFL certificate), serving in a government agency (Peace Corps, Armed Forces, Foreign Services, etc.), increasing international collaboration in the health industry, or continuing education towards a master's/doctoral degree. The opportunities are endless!
Languages

Language majors have two years of basic language in French, German or Spanish followed by coursework in advanced composition and conversation, civilization, literature and linguistics, and languages for the professions. 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 French, German and Spanish and offers a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).

Why UW-Eau Claire

Rankings / Reputation / Well-funded programs

In 2015 the German program was chosen as a German Center of Excellence by the American Association of Teachers of German. Taken into consideration were curricular innovation; faculty/staff expertise; program offerings; and student, collegial, and administrative recommendations.

In 2017 the American Association of Teachers of French identified the French program as "Exemplary with Honors" in recognition of course innovation and activities connecting students to real-world opportunities.

Student Teaching

Language students have the opportunity to student teach at the department's Bilingual Beginnings language immersion summer camps for students entering grades 1-4.

Research Opportunities

In addition to presenting their research at conferences, the faculty in the department of languages have been published in professional publications and have authored books in their respective fields. The faculty share their passion for research with their students: The department averages 10 faculty/student research grants per year. Students collaborate with faculty in linguistics and international literature, culture, history and politics. Many students’ projects have resulted in conference presentations and, occasionally, publications in scholarly journals. Recent research has included analyzing the impact of ethnic diversity within businesses in two Wisconsin cities and studying the German perspectives of the Civil War draft riot in Port Washington, WI.

Innovative Facilities

Practice in the Roma Hoff Instructional Resource Center, which provides access to foreign language sound and video programs, foreign films, and computer-assisted foreign language instruction, is a part of elementary, intermediate, conversation and phonetics courses. Students also have access to active advising in the Instructional Language Lab.

Going Global

The faculty in the languages department are facilitators for global education. The department serves as a mini United Nations at the university as the professors model an international community for students. Most language majors take advantage of UW-Eau Claire’s outstanding study abroad opportunities with at least a semester program (required for Spanish majors and minors). Nearly 50 programs in 30+ countries are offered! There is also a high participation rate in the Spanish living-learning community, one of just a few in the UW System. "La casa hispanica" in Katharine Thomas Hall provides students with a great immersion experience right on campus.

Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

- English as a Second Language courses for international students.
- All three of the major programs (French, German, Spanish) have revised curricula to increase the number of applied language offerings. The German section administers international recognized Goethe-Institut certificate exams in German (Deutsch Mittelstufe) and business German (Deutsch fur den Beruf).
- Other: Instruction in Chinese, Latin, Greek, Hmong, Japanese, Ojibwe and Russian.

Program Options

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

Special Admission Guidelines

First-year students are advised to take a language course and not wait until later semesters so they may continue with their language training obtained in high school, further develop their language skills, and enhance their study abroad options. While not
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required, students who have taken two+ years of a language in high school (with no college level credit in the subject) are encouraged to take the foreign language placement test.