

Modern Languages

What can I do with this degree?



Graduates with a foreign language degree in Spanish, French, or German will have excellent job prospects. The skills gained from learning another language are indispensable. Not only are these graduates able to communicate with many different cultures, but their skills are necessary to the development of world business and economics. Specifically, students will gain knowledge related to global thought and compassion, cultural diversity, and human and historical perspectives.

Foreign Language Skills

- Empathy
- Understanding of World Literature and Culture
- Ability to Work Well with People from Various Backgrounds
- Strong Communication
- Global Thought
- Skills Working in Groups
- Multi-Cultural Competency

Degrees and Certifications

- Master of Arts in Spanish
- Bachelor of Arts in Spanish
- Bachelor of Arts in French
- Bachelor of Arts in German
- Minor in French
- Minor in Spanish
- Minor in German
- Minor in Japanese
- Teacher Certification option with a B.A.

Possible Work Settings

- Advertising Agencies
- Agency for International Development
- Airlines/Airports
- American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries
- Archives
- Armed Forces
- Art Galleries
- Banks or Investment Institutions
- Cruise Lines
- Department of Defense or Justice
- English Language Institutes
- Foreign Firms Operating in the U.S.
- Foreign Service
- Health and Human Services
- Hospitals
- Hotels, Resorts
- Import/Export Companies
- Intelligence and Law Enforcement Agencies
- International Business Organizations
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Library of Congress
- Manufacturers
- Multinational Firms
- Overseas Aid Agencies
- Professional Language Schools
- Publishers
- Religious and Volunteer Organizations
- Retail/Department
- Schools Social Service Agencies
- Shipping/Transport Companies
- Tour Companies
- Travel Agencies
- United Nations
- Universities/Colleges
- U.S. Information Agency
- Voice of America

CAREER PATHS

Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)

...in Government

Possible Occupations

- Anthropologist
- Civil Service
- Customs Inspector
- Diplomacy
- FBI Agent
- Foreign Correspondent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Immigration/Naturalization
- Intelligence Specialist
- International Relations Specialist
- Probation Officer
- Scientific Document Translator

Preparation Strategies

- Learn federal, state, and local job application procedures.
- Enroll in specialized programs or courses.
- Join the armed forces or Peace Corps as a way to get experience.

...in Industry and Commerce

Possible Occupations

- Banking
- Consulting
- Customs
- Editor
- Export Manager
- Hotel Manager
- Import/Exports Agent
- International Broadcast Announcer
- International Trade Economist
- Linguist
- Manufacturing
- Market Research
- Restaurant Manager
- Secretarial Services
- Sales/Customer Services
- Technical Writer
- Translation/Interpretation

Preparation Strategies

- Find out which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.
- Supplement coursework with business classes or minor in business.
- Consult resources such as the Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the U.S., Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries, American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries, and American Register of Exporters and Importers.

...in Service and Education

Possible Occupations

- Civil Services
- Curator Archivist
- Educational Administration
- Foreign Language Teacher
- Foreign Student Advisor
- Health Services
- High School Teacher
- Hospital Admitting Clerk
- Linguistics
- Library Science
- Museum Technician
- Peace Corps/Vista Worker
- Public Health Administrator
- Public Relations
- Religious Service
- Social Service Director
- Social Work



Preparation Strategies

- Learn state certification process for teaching.
- Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language.
- Notify local hospitals, schools, and chambers of commerce of your availability to translate or interpret for international visitors.
- Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.
- Investigate teaching English in another country.
- Plan to get a graduate degree to teach in colleges or universities.
- Be familiar with the cultural base of your language (literature, art, politics, etc.) as well as with cultural traditions.
- Plan to take both written and oral examinations to become an interpreter.
- Volunteer with government programs such as Peace Corps or VISTA.

...in Travel and Tourism

Possible Occupations

- Airline Ticket/Reservation Agent
- Airline Services
- Flight Attendant
- Hospitality Industry
- Museum Guide
- Tour Organizer
- Travel Agent

Preparation Strategies

- Take courses in hotel/restaurant administration.
- Get a part-time job in a hotel or restaurant to gain experience.
- Spend some time abroad to learn the traditions of fine dining, wines, etc.
- Brush up on your knowledge of geography.
- Contact airline headquarters or call the Future Aviation Professionals of America (1-800-JETJOBS) to find employment opportunities.
- Develop office skills such as typing, organizing, and working with computers.
- Read international newspapers to keep up with overseas developments.

Resources

Professional Organizations

American Association of Language Specialists
P.O. Box 39339
Washington, DC 20016-9339
<http://www.taals.net>

Modern Language Associate
10 Astor Pl
New York, NY 10003-6981
<http://www.mla.org>

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
6 Executive Plaza
Yonkers, NY 10701-6801
<http://www.actfl.org>

National Federation of Modern Language Teacher Association
1933 N. Fountain Park Drive
Tucson, AZ 85715

American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Ossining, NY 10562
<http://www.atanet.org>



Career Library Resources

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- DISCOVER
- O*NET
- Best Jobs for the 21st Century
- College Majors & Careers
- Opportunities for Foreign Languages Aficionados
- Great Jobs for Foreign Languages

Websites

- <http://www.tefl.net/>
- www.bilingual-jobs.com
- www.latpro.com
- www.oswego.edu

Information for this handout compiled from:

Texas State University Career Services, Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Florida State University Career Services.

www.careerservices.txstate.edu

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