

# What Can I do with a Major in **WORLD LANGUAGES?** (Foreign Languages and ASL/Deaf Studies)

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The study of language allows us to understand the world better, identify commonalities, and respect cultural differences. Students who major in a specific language are well-equipped to enter a variety of fields and to continue their education through professional or graduate school. The skills acquired as a language major are increasingly useful in our interdependent world, and some languages are currently in particular demand.

## **Typical Coursework**

### **Undergraduate Level**

- General Language courses (grammar, vocab, listening, reading, writing, speaking)
- Syntax/Advanced grammar
- Conversation
- Composition (in target language)
- Introductory Linguistics (general and/or target language specific)
- Literature (general survey course/s)
- Modern Culture (general survey of history, geography and culture of region)
- Ancient Civilizations
- Film/cinema (of target language studied)
- Nonverbal Communication
- Fingerspelling (only for ASL)

### **Graduate Level** (specific coursework depends on specialty: e.g. Literature, Linguistics, Teaching etc.)

- Language Teaching methodology
- Advanced Literary Studies (by time period, region, genre and literary form)
- Advanced cultural studies (by region, time period, aspect of culture etc...)
- Advanced Syntax (word order/grammar)
- Phonetics (pronunciation)
- Phonology (grammar of sound systems)
- Morphology (formation of words)
- Historical Linguistics (evolution of the language)
- Sociolinguistics (dialects and language of social groups)
- Pragmatics (non-literal uses of language)
- Intercultural communications (how different cultures communicate)
- Translation (converting written documents from target language to English)
- Interpretation (converting oral speech (or signing) from target language to spoken English)
- Research methods and statistics

### **Related Studies**

Ancient Languages (e.g. Latin)  
Archeology  
Art  
Audiology/Hearing disorders  
Childhood Development  
Cultural anthropology  
General linguistics  
Geography

History  
Music  
Other modern languages  
Politics  
Psychology  
Religion  
Speech Disorders / Speech Therapy  
TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language)  
Women's studies

## **Related Major Skills**

Speaking to groups  
Reading/writing another language  
Clarifying ideas  
Writing clearly  
Understanding historical language change  
Explaining complex concepts  
Reading critically  
Interpreting data  
Evaluating information  
Evaluating evidence  
Comparing translations interpretations  
Gathering information  
Working with original sources in many fields  
Organizing materials/information  
Summarizing ideas  
Compiling/recording data

Evaluating results  
Collaborating as part of a team  
Determining the needs of others  
Acknowledging value systems  
Listening carefully  
Interviewing non-judgmentally  
Designing instruments  
Reporting and editing  
Establishing hypotheses  
Reading for content and structure  
Working with research subjects  
Communicating between cultures  
Understanding cultural diversity  
Assessing needs  
Adapting to other cultures  
Weighing values

## **Directly-Related Occupations**

Advertising Manager  
Air Traffic Assistant  
Archivist  
Art Dealer  
Banking Correspondent  
Peacekeeper  
Civil Service Employee  
Consultant  
Copywriter  
Court Interpreter  
Cultural Attaché or Officer  
Customs /Immigration Officer  
Drug Enforcement Agent  
Editor  
Escort/Guide  
FBI/CIA Agent  
Filmmaker  
Financial Planning  
Foreign Correspondent  
Foreign Diplomat  
Foreign Exchange Trader  
Foreign Service Officer or Specialist  
Importer/Exporter  
Intelligence Specialist  
International Account Manager / Bank Officer  
International Conference Planner  
International Consultant  
International Hotel Admin.  
International Trade Specialist  
Interpreter

Journalist / Reporter  
Lawyer  
Library Technician / Media Specialist  
Linguist  
Missionary  
Multi-Lingual Port Receptionist  
Museum Curator  
National Security Agent  
Negotiator  
Overseas Personnel or Plant Manager  
Paralegal  
Peace Corps Volunteer  
Pharmaceutical Rep.  
Politician  
Proofreader  
Publishing Specialist  
Radio/TV Announcer  
Salesperson  
Senior Credit Analyst  
Sports Agent  
Educator (foreign language, ESL or bilingual)  
Telecommunications Sales  
Tour Organizer  
Translator  
Transport Equipment Manager  
Travel Agent  
Travel Writer  
UNESCO Official

## **Who Hires for this Occupation?**

The hiring opportunities vary greatly but would include government agencies, schools, hospitals, corporations, military and business organizations.

## **MN Colleges & Universities with a major in ASL**

North Central University

St. Catherine University

## **MN Colleges and Universities with a major in Chinese**

Carleton College	Hamline University
College of St. Benedict	Macalester College
Concordia College	St. John's University

## **MN Colleges & Universities with a major in French**

Augsburg College	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Bethel University	St. Catherine University
College of St. Benedict	St. Cloud State University
College of St. Scholastica	St. John's University
Concordia College	St. Olaf College
Gustavus Adolphus College	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Hamline University	University of Minnesota, Morris
Macalester College	University of St. Thomas

## **Colleges and Universities with a major in German**

Augsburg College	St. John's University
Carleton College	St. Olaf College
College of St. Benedict	University of Minnesota, Duluth
College of St. Scholastica	University of Minnesota, Morris
Concordia College	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Hamline University	University of St. Thomas
Macalester College	
Minnesota State University, Mankato	
St. Cloud State University	

## **MN Colleges and Universities with a major in Spanish**

Augsburg College	Southwest State University
Bemidji State University	St. Catherine University
Bethel University	St. Cloud State University
Carleton College	St. John's University
College of St. Benedict	St. Mary's University of Minnesota – Winona
College of St. Scholastica	St. Olaf College
Concordia College	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Gustavus Adolphus College	University of Minnesota, Morris
Hamline University	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Macalester College	University of Northwestern, St. Paul
Minnesota State University, Mankato	University of St. Thomas
Minnesota State University, Moorhead	Winona State University

## **Professional Association Links**

American Association for Applied Linguistics, <http://www.aal.org/>  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, <http://www.actfl.org/>  
American Association of Teachers of German, <http://www.aatg.org/>  
American Sign Language Linguistic Research Project, <http://www.bu.edu/asllrp/>  
American Sign Language Teachers Association, <http://www.aslta.org/> - Click on "Certification"  
American Translators Association, <http://www.atanet.org/>  
Association for Asian Studies, <https://www.asian-studies.org/>  
Council for European Studies, <http://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/> - Browse articles & menu topics  
Foreign Language Associations (links to associations), [http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF\\_lang\\_assn.shtml](http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml)  
Gallaudet University Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies  
<http://deafstudies.gallaudet.edu>  
Modern Language Association, <http://www.mla.org/> - Browse articles & resources on side menu bar  
National Association of the Deaf, <http://www.nad.org/> - Browse areas of interest

## **For More Information**

Contact ARCC Career Counseling: (763) 433-1240 (CR campus), (763) 433-1840 (Cambridge campus) or stop by the campus Information Desk

*Information adapted from:* Minnesota Career Information System <https://mncis.intocareers.org>,  
Career Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington <http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html> &  
Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>