

# 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

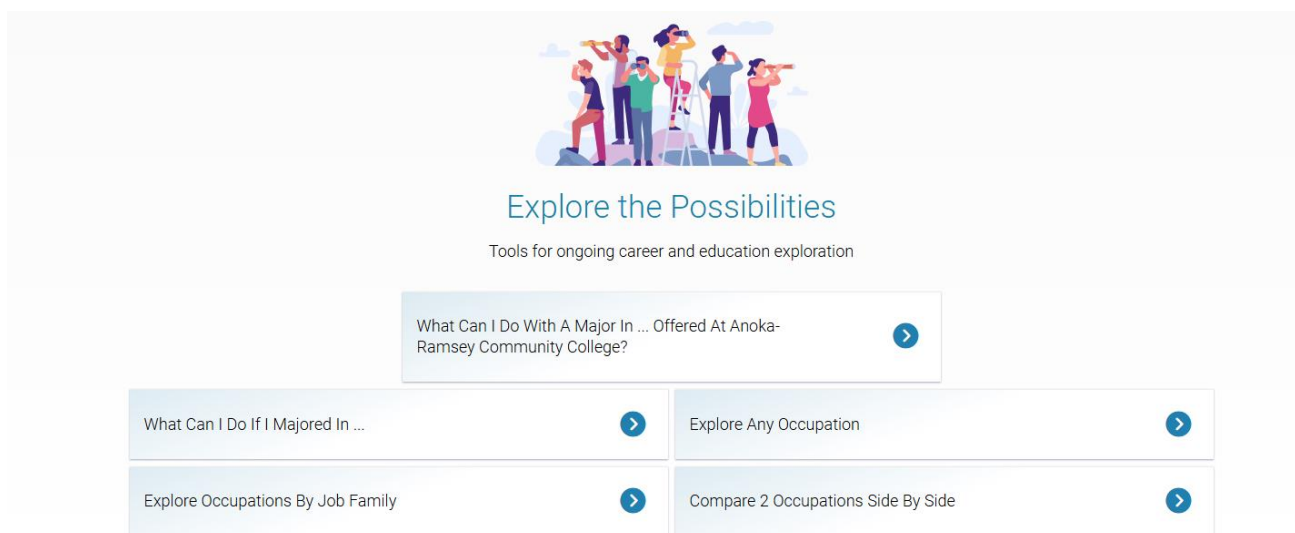
Proofreader  
 Publishing Specialist  
 Radio/TV Announcer  
 Salesperson  
 Senior Credit Analyst  
 Sports Agent  
 Educator (foreign language, ESL or bilingual)  
 Telecommunications Sales  
 Tour Organizer  
 Translator  
 Transport Equipment Manager  
 Travel Agent  
 Travel Writer  
 UNESCO Official

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

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

### **Focus2**

Visit [FOCUS2](#) (use ARCC credentials to sign-in) for more information regarding **related occupations and average salaries** and explore **other related majors**. You can also take **assessments** to match your skills, interests, and values to potential careers and majors.



### **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. Cloud State University

Carleton College

St. John's University

College of St. Benedict

St. Olaf College

College of St. Scholastica

University of Minnesota, Duluth

Concordia College

University of Minnesota, Morris

Hamline University

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Macalester College

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State University, Mankato

### **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

\*Anoka-Ramsey Community College offers a [Spanish Transfer Pathway Associate of Arts Degree](#) with general education courses that typically transfer as all or part of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree and also directly to designated Spanish Bachelor's Degree programs at Minnesota State System Universities.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College offers an [Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree](#) with general education courses that typically transfer as all or part of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree.

Search for majors and colleges at [Minnesota State System Colleges and University](#).

### **Professional Association Links**

[American Association for Applied Linguistics](#)

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

[American Association of Teachers of German](#)

[American Sign Language Linguistic Research Project](#)

[American Sign Language Teachers Association](#)

[American Translators Association](#)

[Association for Asian Studies](#)

[Council for European Studies](#)

[Foreign Language Associations \(links to associations\)](#)

[Modern Language Association-](#)

[National Association of the Deaf](#)

### **For More Information**

Contact ARCC Counseling (Coon Rapids and Cambridge) at (763) 433-1100 or stop by the campus Information Desk

*Information adapted from:*

[Minnesota Career Information System](#)

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Focus2](#)

[Career Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington](#)