

World Languages and Cultures

Mission Statement

The World Languages and Cultures Programs within the Department of Languages and Literatures serve the mission of the College of Letters & Sciences and the University as a whole by encouraging students to develop diverse perspectives, civic responsibility and engagement, and personal and professional integrity while preparing for careers and life-long learning. Learning a world language benefits our students by improving their ability to make connections across the curriculum with other subjects. The Department offers a comprehensive curriculum in French, German, Spanish, as well as an array of courses in American Sign Language, Japanese, Chinese and Arabic for undergraduates seeking to fulfill major, College, and University requirements, as well as those seeking language preparation for other opportunities.

Through our programs, students develop skills in listening comprehension, oral and written communication, and textual literacy, which facilitate awareness and appreciation of the contributions of other cultures to contemporary society; cultural sensitivity and respect through engagement with those cultures; and critical thinking skills, through reflecting on the differences and similarities between the target cultures and their own.

The Department's mission is to help students become tolerant, open-minded citizens and sensitive, knowledgeable people who understand linguistic and cultural diversity, and can adapt to change as competitive participants in our increasingly diverse, multi-cultural and global society. Our mission is to help students develop the linguistic, literary and cross-cultural competence necessary to live, work and be lifelong learners in our diverse world.

The World Languages and Cultures Program's expertise in various world languages reaches out into and serves the larger community and region. Faculty, Academic Staff and/or student interns provide valuable paid or volunteer assistance with translation and interpreting. Service learning components in some courses help students see real-life application of their world language skills. These activities benefit area institutions and organizations while creating ties between the university and surrounding communities.