

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES



"Studying a language allows us to learn more about other cultures and to gain new perspectives. I find language skills extremely valuable for any future career choice."

– Alexis Chin '18, German and business administration double major with a minor in English

Many educators and employers consider the language programs at Millersville University to be first rate and its graduates eminently employable.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES
(with specialization in French, German or Spanish)

- **LANGUAGE STUDIES OPTION:** for students who studied the language previously and want to reach a higher level of proficiency and expertise in their specialization
- **CULTURE STUDIES OPTION:** for students without prior knowledge in a language who want to become proficient and gain an advanced understanding of cultural issues and perspectives
- **CERTIFICATION OPTION:** for students who want to become world language teachers

The Language and Culture Studies program offers a rich and multifaceted language and culture curriculum. The goal is that all students graduating from the program will be able to use the language of their major at a high level of proficiency, communicate successfully in a multicultural environment, and demonstrate awareness of historical and political realities of diverse countries, regions and ethnic groups. The undergraduate degree is designed so that students can complete a second major or minor in another discipline within four years.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (M.A.)

Millersville also offers a graduate degree in collaboration with West Chester University of Pennsylvania, with a specialization in French, German or Spanish. Some courses are offered online, in the evening or during the summer.

MINORS IN LANGUAGE STUDIES OR CULTURE STUDIES
(with specialization in French, German, Japanese or Spanish)

MINORS, OTHER FIELDS OF INTEREST TO LANGUAGE STUDENTS

Students are encouraged to minor or double-major in international studies, linguistics, government and political affairs, or Latina/o studies.

FACULTY

The faculty members in the Language and Culture Studies program are native or near-native speakers of the languages they teach and have a variety of subject interests. Many have published works and are currently conducting research. This research gives language students the opportunity to conduct research with faculty members even while they are still undergraduates.

BECOME A WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES: CERTIFICATION IN FRENCH, GERMAN OR SPANISH
Combine your interests in language and teaching with this four-year program. With Pennsylvania's extremely high standards for teacher preparation, Millersville graduates are heavily recruited both regionally and nationally.





FACILITIES

The department is located in McComsey Hall, which features a digital language lab and includes an extensive library of print, video and DVD media as well as international language TV channels in French, German and Spanish via satellite. All classes are taught in smart classrooms, students have access to multilanguage Microsoft Office software for writing assignments, and the instructors use online courseware in most of the courses to enhance the learning experiences outside of the classroom.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

French Club

The French Circle's main purpose is to promote the French language and culture. Activities include:

- A student-prepared French dinner
- Conversation hours
- Trips to museums, plays, concerts and art exhibitions in Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore and New York
- French films
- Fundraising activities such as book sales and sale of crepes for Mardi Gras

German Club

All students interested in German language and culture are invited to participate in the activities of the German Club. Activities include:

- Conversation hours
- German dinners
- Games
- Video/film presentations
- Career exploration
- Trips to places significant for German and Pennsylvania German culture

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club affords all students the opportunity to learn more about all things related to Spain and Latin America, as well as Hispanic culture in the United States. Activities include:

- Trips to New York, Washington or Philadelphia to see museums, the Spanish National Ballet, and theater productions in Spanish
- Sponsoring artists or scholars in residence and Spanish dance classes
- Community service such as visiting with Spanish speakers in nursing homes, helping out in hospitals, tutoring
- Meetings to chat in Spanish
- Movies and other programs in Spanish
- Meeting international students and SOLA members
- Playing games in Spanish, cooking Spanish food

STUDY ABROAD

The Language and Culture Studies department encourages all majors and minors to study abroad for a summer, a semester or an academic year in a country where their language is spoken. Millersville has partner universities in France, Germany, Spain and Chile, but students can also participate in other programs. Although most students study abroad during their junior year, students may study or do an internship abroad for academic credit any time after completing 24 academic credits of study.

Study abroad is a valuable and important part of a student's undergraduate education. Learning about another way of life firsthand and the experience of seeing the world from another culture's perspective are invaluable to success in our global society and to the development of language proficiency.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply classroom knowledge and to gain professional work experience. Opportunities for language majors are available locally as well as internationally. By working with people in the target culture and using the target language, students can gain invaluable insights that are not available in the classroom setting.

Careers Using Language Skills

The words "graduate with language proficiency in a second language" on your resume will have many recruiters going back for another look. That's because a relatively small pool of Americans have language credentials in a second language, so they stand out from the crowd and, consequently, have far healthier career options. The in-depth study of language and culture allows us to understand the world better, identify commonalities and respect cultural differences. Students who major in a specific language and culture 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 and Culture Studies major are increasingly useful in our interdependent world. Language graduates who do not go into teaching end up across all career sectors, including:

- Travel, Tourism and Hospitality
- Legal Interpreting
- Health Care
- National Security
- International Development
- Business and Industry
- Emergency Response and Law Enforcement