



Modern Languages & Literature

The program's mission is to prepare students to live, work and serve as global citizens, with the responsibility, empathy, openness to diversity, and commitment to social justice that distinguish the Jesuit educational tradition. The curriculum is designed to achieve three overarching goals: to empower students to become independent users of language in real-life contexts; to develop reflective, analytical, and critical-thinking abilities through the study of a wide range of cultural products, practices, and perspectives; and to foster the cultural competence that will enable our students to forge meaningful connections with people from cultures different from their own. With the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they acquire in the study of modern languages, students will be able to contribute to a diverse and changing world as active participants who can work within and across cultural perspectives.

THE PROGRAM

Majors include French and Spanish, and minors in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The department also offers coursework in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino.

The diverse and unique class offerings provide the framework for a challenging curriculum, while faculty provide the foundation for our programs' success with a typical class size of 15-18 students. Nearly 90% of students study abroad in Argentina, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain - or a number of other spots around the globe.

Department faculty continually emphasize language performance and intercultural competence to create innovative and exciting opportunities for individual, hands-on experience. This approach allows students to learn a language with upper-level courses in literature, film, society, linguistics, and more, furthering the mission of exposing students to new cultures and developing a tolerance for difference.

THE MAJORS

The **French major and minor** prepare students for professional life in the 21st century. Many French majors at Gonzaga have second majors and have successfully integrated their study of French with degrees in biology, business, public relations, or international studies in order to pursue careers in business, medicine, or law.

French majors and minors are strongly encouraged to incorporate study abroad into their coursework. Courses taken at the Institut Catholique (Paris) or at the Institute for American Universities (Aix-en-Provence) may be transferred to Gonzaga and applied to the major and minor. The French program also awards the Martin Blum Scholarship to a second-year student who demonstrates outstanding ability in the study of French.

The **Spanish major and minor** focus equally on Latin America and Spain. Gonzaga students may study in Madrid or Granada, Spain during the Fall or Spring semesters or attend a summer immersion program offered occasionally in Cuernavaca, Mexico. These immersion programs include coursework in Spanish (Spanish/Latin American literature and films), cultural trips, and a home-stay with a local family. In South America, Gonzaga also offers study abroad programs for Spanish language students in multiple cities in Chile and Argentina.

THE MINORS

The **German minor** helps students develop grammatical and intercultural competence and achieve oral proficiency. Upper-division courses that coordinate with the International Studies program focus on reading, writing, and speaking skills. Language, literature, and culture classes focus on interactive acquisition of German. Students in the German program may experience Austrian life and culture while studying abroad for one semester or academic year at Karl-Franzens University in Graz, Austria or by participating in a five-week summer immersion program in Graz.

The **Italian minor** enables students to reach intermediate proficiency in Italian and a considerable insight into the historical and sociocultural aspects of today's Italy. Students are encouraged to spend one semester in the Gonzaga in Florence program or in a comparable program in Italy. A successful completion of this minor requires demonstrated mastery of the material covered at the elementary and intermediate level of Italian. All students are therefore required to take four upper division courses in Italian language and culture.

OUTCOMES

The Modern Languages and Literature major will:

- Communicate orally entirely in the target language in both everyday and professional/academic settings with a high degree of phonetic, syntactic, and semantic accuracy.
- Comprehend complex information provided orally at the normal conversational tempo of a native speaker.
- Write with proficiency to contrast, criticize, analyze, defend opinions, and advance and support a thesis.
- Comprehend and interpret challenging and diverse reading material in the target language.
- Demonstrate insightful and complex understanding of the target language culture(s) and function comfortably in a wide range of social situations in the target language environment(s).



LANGUAGE

express yourself and understand the world through written and spoken communication



CULTURE

make connections by reflecting on cultural practices, production, and perspectives



SOCIETY

bring your knowledge to the community with a global understanding of real-world issues



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mastery of a foreign language noticeably enhances students' career prospects, especially when combined with study in other disciplines. Graduates have used their language backgrounds in fields such as business, journalism, teaching, sociology, and political science.

Since many students have a strong interest in social justice and a desire to serve others, some language graduates will spend a year or two volunteering prior to attending graduate school or entering the job market. In programs such as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps, Fulbright, and Peace Corps, students find their secondary language skills indispensable.

Many students have goals to pursue careers in law, government, and academia; thus, they attend a variety of graduate programs at diverse universities and government entities.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literature students can become members of the Chi Kappa chapter of Phi Sigma Iota, the International Foreign Language Honor Society, which is the highest academic honor in the field of foreign languages and literatures.



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