LANGUAGES

Centennial Hall 4508
715-836-4287
Department Website (https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/departments-programs/languages/)

The Department of Languages provides a vital component in the undergraduate liberal arts education offered at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The department promotes multilingualism as the key to intercultural understanding. It does so through courses in foreign language, culture, and literature, including English language for native speakers of other languages; major and minor programs in a number of world languages; study abroad opportunities and internships in many countries; and student/faculty collaborative research. Graduates from the Department of Languages serve at home and abroad as ambassadors for a diverse, peacefully interacting global society.

Major, Minor, and Certificate Programs

The Department of Languages offers Liberal Arts and Teaching majors and minors in French and Spanish, and a Liberal Arts minor in German and Japanese. In addition, a Spanish for Health Professions minor is available as well as certificate programs in Chinese, French Proficiency, German Proficiency, and Ojibwe Language. Language students may also be interested in the minor in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL, housed in Education for Equity and Justice), the certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), or the minor or certificate in Ancient Studies. Students of Spanish have the opportunity to pursue a major or minor in Latin American and Latinx Studies (LAS).

Other Languages Offered

In addition to the major, minor, and certificate programs, the Department of Languages provides, as resources permit, at least one year of instruction in Chinese, Classical Greek, Hmong, Japanese, Latin, and Ojibwe. One year of any of the languages taught in the department fulfills the one-year foreign language requirement for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in the College of Arts and Sciences. To meet this requirement, however, the student must earn a grade of at least C or a mark of S in a Foreign Language course numbered 102 or higher. The department is also the academic home for the Intensive English Program (English as a Second Language), see below.

Spanish Honors Program

The Honors Program in Spanish is intended for Spanish majors—including Spanish education and liberal arts majors—who have demonstrated excellence in their coursework, and who want to experience the study of languages outside the classroom. The high impact practices required for department honors in Spanish align with such experiences.

Spanish Departmental Honors is not the same program as University Honors. Because these honors programs are distinct, students should review the requirements of each with care.

Students who pursue the Spanish Honors Program do not have to be part of the University Honors Program.

Students in the University Honors Program can also apply to be part of the Spanish Honors program.

Eligibility: Spanish majors who have resident, overall, and major GPAs of 3.50 or higher. Completion of Spanish 302 is required before applying to the Honors Program in Spanish.

Application: An application must be submitted to the Spanish section via an e-form. The form may be accessed via the Languages Department (https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/departments-programs/languages/) web page, Honors Program tab under Explore Opportunities. The e-form will ask that you identify a Spanish faculty member to serve as a reference. The application must be submitted prior to the student's last two semesters of study. That being said, students are encouraged to apply after completing SPAN 302, a course typically taken sophomore year, but no later than their final two semesters.

Requirements: At graduation, the student must have a resident, overall, and major GPAs of 3.50 or higher. In addition, the student must submit evidence that two of the options from the list below have been satisfactorily completed at a standard of excellence deserving of a recognition in Spanish Honors. With the exception of the OPI proficiency test, students may do two of any of the other given options to meet the Spanish Honors Program requirements if their projects are distinct. For example, a student could conduct two separate faculty/student collaborative research projects with the same or different Spanish faculty member(s) or, with approval from the Spanish section, with faculty from departments or programs outside of Spanish. Students that select OPI proficiency as one of the options to fulfill one of their requirements must complete work in a different category for the second option.

1. A faculty/student collaborative research project with a Spanish faculty member

2. Advanced Low or higher on an official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview

3. An off-campus presentation at a conference on a topic related to the major

4. Completion of a language related internship approved by a faculty member

5. Submission of a publication-worthy manuscript to a journal related to the major

6. Completion of application to the U.S. Fulbright program

7. Certification as an interpreter by the State of Wisconsin

Residency Requirement for Prospective Language Teachers

All majors and minors who wish to be certified to teach a foreign language must complete an appropriate period of language immersion in residence in a country in which the language is spoken, or provide an alternative language immersion experience that must be approved by the Department. The minimum time period for meeting the residence/immersion requirement is six weeks. However, the Department of Languages recommends that students spend at least one semester abroad.

Oral Proficiency Requirement for Prospective Language Teachers

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction content guidelines require that foreign language teachers demonstrate minimal oral proficiency at a level equivalent to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Prospective teachers at UW-Eau Claire must demonstrate such proficiency through an official ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Information on the

Oral Proficiency Interview and the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (Speaking) is available in the Department of Languages.

Placement Test in Foreign Languages

Students whose records indicate at least two units of French, German, Spanish, or Japanese study in Junior/Senior High School and who do not have college credit in the language are required to take a placement test in that language prior to registration in order to determine the level at which they should continue their foreign language instruction. At the time of the test, students will be advised as to the language course in which they should enroll.

Students who place into a 102-level foreign language class will be considered to have met the 101-level competency requirement and may not enroll in a 101-level class in the same language for credit without the permission of the Chair of the Department of Languages. Additionally, a student who places into a 201-level class or above will be considered to have met the 101- and 102-level requirements and may not enroll for credit in any course that is at a lower level than the one into which the student has placed without the permission of the Chair of the Department of Languages.

Placement tests in French, German, and Spanish are offered as part of Regional Placement Testing in March and April, during Summer Orientation, and during spring/fall registration. If you studied Japanese or Chinese in high school, UW-Eau Claire has a locally developed placement test which is administered by appointment. For information about these tests, consult Academic Testing (Vicki Lord Larson Hall 2100).

Roma Hoff Instructional Resource Center

Practice in the Roma Hoff Instructional Resource Center (RHIRC) is a required part of elementary, intermediate, conversation, and phonetics courses in modern foreign languages. The center provides access to foreign language sound and video programs, to foreign films, and to computer-assisted foreign language instruction. Four-credit courses at the beginning and intermediate levels include four hours of classroom instruction and at least one laboratory hour per week.

Credit for High School Work or Other Foreign Language Experience

Students with high school courses or other learning experiences in a foreign language may obtain college credit for their previous work by taking a confirming course under the following conditions:

1. The confirming course must be the first college-level course completed in the language and must be taken by a regularly enrolled student at UW-Eau Claire. (However, students who have taken a college-level course while in high school are also eligible for credit for previous work by taking a confirming course.)
2. The confirming course must be 102, 201, 202, or in French, FREN 315; in German, GERM 313, GERM 314 or GERM 315; in Spanish, SPAN 301.
3. The course must be passed with a letter grade of B (not B-) or above and may not be repeated for the purpose of requesting credits under this policy.
4. A maximum of 16 credits may be granted in any one language for previous work at a level lower than the confirming course.

Further information is available from the Chair of the Department.

Study Abroad

The department encourages study abroad in any of the programs sponsored by the Department of Languages, such as the semester programs in Costa Rica, Chile, Pau in France, Marburg in Germany, Japan, and Valladolid in Spain; the semester or year exchange programs in Graz (Austria) and year programs in different sites in the state of Hessen (Germany); summer program in Mexico or Costa Rica—nursing and health care professionals; and exchange semester or year-long programs at one of three ITESM campuses in Mexico. Credits for the major and minor can be earned in any of these programs. Participation in other university-sponsored study abroad programs in Australia, China, England, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and Thailand is also recommended. A resident GPA requirement exists for acceptance in study abroad programs. For details, see the Center for International Education.

International Employment

Students interested in a career in international business should consider a major in French, German, or Spanish combined with the major, minor or certificate in International Business available to students in the College of Business. For information about opportunities for international employment, consult Dr. Kristy Lauver, the advisor for students seeking the International Business major, minor or certificate in the College of Business.

Intensive English Program (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Another important offering in the Department of Languages is English for the ever-growing number of non-native speakers of English on campus. The Intensive English Program (IEP) offers English Language Learners instruction during the regular academic year. All IEP courses are offered for credit and count towards resident GPA and credits for graduation. Successful completion of the advanced level of the IEP is one way to demonstrate English proficiency for degree programs at UWEC.

International students seeking a degree or on exchange from their home institutions, immigrants/refugees, and/or non-native speakers of English who are residents of the United States are welcome to take IEP coursework to further develop their English speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

International students who have not demonstrated English proficiency may take the English Placement Exam at UWEC. The English Placement Exam is conducted the week prior to the beginning of courses. The purpose of the English Placement Exam is to determine whether each non-native speaking student's English language proficiency is sufficient for active involvement in UWEC coursework. A non-native speaker of English must be linguistically prepared for the rigorous academic challenges at UW-Eau Claire in terms of in-class oral and aural interaction and out-of-class reading and writing.

For more information on admissions requirements for the IEP, undergraduate studies, or graduate studies, please contact the office of Admissions at admissions@uwec.edu.

Faculty

Carter Smith, Chair

Josh Brown
Thomas Carlson
Elena Casey
Analisa DeGrave

Marcela Depiante
Sara Echarri
Manuel Fernández
Bibiana Fuentes
Anne Hlas
Paul Hoff
Tomomi Kakegawa
Kaishan Kong
Meghan Mehlos Licón
Jessica Sertling Miller
José Valero
Fabiola Varela-Garcia
Matt Waters

Majors

- Major: French, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/french-major-ba-bs/)
- Major: French Teaching - B.A. (College of Education and Human Sciences Secondary Education Program) (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/french-major-t-ba/)
- Major: Spanish, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-major-liberal-arts-ba-bs/)
- Major: Spanish Teaching - B.A. (College of Education and Human Sciences Secondary Education Program) (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-major-t-ba/)
- Comprehensive Major: Spanish Teaching, TESOL Emphasis - B.A. (College of Education and Human Sciences Secondary Education Program) (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-tesol-major-t-ba/)

Minors

- Minor: Ancient Studies (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary/ancient-studies-minor/)
- Minor: French, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/french-minor/)
- Minor: French, Early Childhood/Adolescence Teaching (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/french-minor-cat/)
- Minor: German, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/german-minor/)
- Minor: Japanese, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/japanese-minor/)
- Minor: Spanish, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-minor/)
- Minor: Spanish for Health Professions, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-for-health-professionals-minor/)
- Minor: Spanish, Early Childhood/Adolescence Teaching (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/spanish-minor-ecat/)

Certificates

- Certificate: Ancient Studies (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary/ancient-studies-certificate/)
- Certificate: Chinese (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/Chinese-certificate/)
- Certificate: French Proficiency (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/french-proficiency-certificate/)
- Certificate: German Proficiency (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/german-proficiency-certificate/)
- Certificate: Ojibwe Language (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/languages/Ojibwe-language-certificate/)