World Languages and Cultures

Studying a language other than English - and the culture and literature of the people who speak that language - combines personal satisfaction with career preparation.

In today's globally competitive world, knowledge of a modern language greatly enhances an individual's credentials, whether in business, government, service organizations, or education. World language graduates have pursued a variety of endeavors, including graduate study and study or work abroad. Majors can pursue concentrations in French, German, or Spanish as well as a translator's concentration in combined languages adding Russian, Arabic, Portuguese or Chinese.

A Distinctive Program

We believe that foreign language learning has become a vital requirement of globalization and that students must widen their cultural and linguistic perspectives as they are more likely to work in a multi-cultural environment.

Available Concentrations:

French

The French concentration combines opportunities for personal enrichment with the practical skills required in this age of globalization. Students learn about a foreign culture while perfecting their language skills. French is widely spoken on five continents and in many countries by approximately 200 million people. It is among the principal languages of diplomacy and of important international organizations.

France is the fourth largest economy in the world and is at the center of the European market. French is also an official language of Canada, and Francophone culture is alive and well in many regions of the United States.

As many American companies are French-owned, France has a significant business and economical presence in the U.S. Some of the most famous French-owned companies are Dannon, Yoplait, Total Gas stations, Nissan, Nivea, DKNY, Airbus and L’Oreal. A degree in French is a plus for a student who wants to join one of these companies.

German

A knowledge of German grants access to a rich cultural heritage and to many contemporary cultural, economic,
political and scientific developments. Advanced degrees in such fields as genetics, music, environmental science, theology, biochemistry, philosophy and film studies require or recommend the study of German. The German program at Stetson University is dedicated to opening the door to these opportunities.

German is spoken by over 100 million people in the world. It represents the largest number of native speakers in the European Union and is rapidly becoming the lingua franca of Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition, Germany has the largest economy in the European Union and the third largest in the world. It is a leader in business innovation and its subsidiaries and branches are a common sight throughout the world.

Spanish

The Spanish concentration combines opportunities for personal enrichment with the practical skills required in this age of globalization.

Students enjoy learning about a foreign culture while perfecting their language skills. For that reason, it is expected that all language majors will participate in at least one semester of the study abroad program. Students can also work on certification to teach at the K-12 level as part of their major.

Students can take part in Spanish-language conversation tables and engage in community service or internships in nearby Mexican-American communities.

Academics and Research

Independent research

All students conduct a senior research project under the mentorship of a faculty member.

Facilities and opportunities

The World Languages and Cultures department is housed in Sampson Hall. All classes are in smart classrooms and technology is widely used in and outside of class. The multimedia language laboratory is readily available for individual or group work. Students also have access to native-speaking tutors.

Awards and Recognition
Distinguished faculty

All modern languages faculty encourage a confidence-building experience that not only facilitates conceptual learning but that is of great benefit to your future career and life.

- Carmen Capitano, Ph.D., Temple University; Spanish
- Pamela Cappas-Toro, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Spanish
- Yves-Antoine Clemmen, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; French
- Ana Eire, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Spanish
- Susanne Eules; German
- Richard Ferland, A.M. and Ph.D., Harvard University; French
- Elisabeth Poeter, Ph.D, University of California at Berkeley; German
- Robert Sitler, Ph.D, University of Texas; Spanish
- Nancy Vosburg, Ph.D., The University of Iowa

Grant-funded research

One of the ways Stetson University fosters excellence in undergraduate programs is through the Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience. Each year undergraduate scholars are selected in a university-wide competition for grants to work with a faculty mentor on a summer research project.

Courses and Curriculum

» View the Stetson University Course Catalog for more information on the curriculum and courses for this academic program.

Beyond the Classroom

Study Abroad Program

University exchange programs are available in France, Germany, Russia, Spain, Brazil and Chile. It is expected that all language majors will participate in at least one abroad experience with language exposure for either one or two semesters or one or several summers. These programs are recommended also for any student who wishes to attain a high degree of language proficiency while working on a major in another field. A large range of courses is available in the foreign centers, and the program usually facilitates the obtaining of a minor.

Application to these programs is done through WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning.

More Information

Office of Admissions
421 North Woodland Boulevard, Unit 8378
DeLand, Florida 32723
386-822-7100 or 800-688-0101
admissions@stetson.edu
stetson.edu/admissions