

# School of Languages, Cultures, and Race

College of Arts and Sciences

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK** **SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, CULTURES & RACE** **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

<https://slcr.wsu.edu/>



# ABOUT THE SCHOOL

## Vision

The School of Languages, Cultures, and Race will cultivate deeper understandings of linguistic, cultural, national, social, and racial perspectives in a global context. It will encourage its constituencies to make a difference by commitment to these themes in our changing world through undergraduate and graduate education, scholarship, activism, and outreach.

It will also foster critical literacy, intercultural engagement, and the pursuit of global justice through a grounded, multi-disciplinary engagement and inquiry. Its perspectives on transnational, cultural, and social studies will provide students with the skills, experiences, and knowledge necessary to develop transdisciplinary understandings about society, culture, and the world in ways that will allow them to thrive in an increasingly diverse and multifaceted global society.

## Mission and Goals

The School of Languages, Cultures, and Race houses faculty in the humanities and the social sciences utilizing intersectional and transdisciplinary approaches with an array of shared interests and a mission that centers on intellectual and critical discourse related to cultures and their products and productions around the globe.

The school seeks to advance social justice and the transformation of societies, including the effects of culture, popular culture, and media on race and ethnic relations. It also seeks to advance understandings about the social production and influence of languages and cultural practices around the globe.

## Values

As an inter- and transdisciplinary unit weaving the humanities and the social sciences, the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race fosters the following values:

- Applied learning and competency in world cultures and languages.
- Applied learning and competency in social constructions and cultural understandings of race and race relations.
- Inclusivity, respect for all cultures and national backgrounds, and a true understanding of cultural diversity.
- Excellence in teaching.
- Career placement and advancement of our students through active participation in university efforts to improve all aspects of undergraduate and graduate education.
- Scholarship that fosters creativity, innovation, and social/cultural understandings through research activities and involvement in professional organizations.
- We foster partnerships and relationships with other units in the WSU system to advance the university's global initiatives.
- We facilitate intercultural experiences for WSU faculty, students, and staff on campus and abroad through consulting, workshops, and public talks.

## Safe Zone Statement

In a time when divisiveness and fear permeate our nation, faculty, students, and staff within the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race (SLCR) remain committed to working together for equity and social justice, and to safeguarding a community that fosters and respects differences. SLCR stands against abuse, bullying, racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of inequality.

We will continue to strive for transformative knowledge, understanding, action, and hope in a world that is both increasingly interconnected and painfully unequal, while fostering a space that is safe for everyone.

## Foreign Languages and Cultures

In an increasingly interconnected world, the program in Foreign Languages and Cultures educates students to become communicatively competent and informed global citizens who are proficient in multiple languages and who offer critical insights into world cultures. Students benefit from learning from scholars who pursue research of culture, film, language, and literature, contributing to a greater understanding of the human experience around the globe.

Specializations available in Spanish, French, Japanese, Chinese, and International Studies

A second major, language-only option is available in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Skills you can market with a degree in foreign languages and cultures:

- Language competency grounded in cultural understanding
- Understanding linguistic and cultural differences
- Translation of both texts and social interactions
- Ability to anticipate difficulties in social/marketing interactions and events

Foreign Languages and Cultures is the study of languages other than English and the cultures where these languages are spoken. Studying a foreign language allows for direct access to people and cultures other than one's own and furthers the development of global understanding and sensitivity. Proficiency in a foreign language is an important tool in a broad variety of professions.

Foreign Languages offers coursework in these languages: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish.

Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages & Cultures Majors

- Chinese
- French Language
- French Teaching
- Japanese
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Teaching

## **Bachelor of Arts in Humanities-International Area Studies – Major Advising**

The BA in Humanities-International Area Studies major is for students who have interests that are both international and interdisciplinary. Students may choose between these major concentrations: Latin American Area studies, German Area Studies, French and Francophone Area Studies, and European Area Studies.

Students who wish to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities with a focus in International Area Studies will devise an approved, coherent program of study with the coordinator and a designated advisor who is a specialist in the student's area of interest. The program of study must fulfill an academic or career goal, include prerequisites consistent with the 300-400 level major coursework, satisfy the UCORE requirements and any additional requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences, and include language proficiency appropriate to the cultural area. The area studies major will consist of a minimum of 40 credits.

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities-International Area Studies Major  
[International Area Studies checklist](#)

## **Professional Second Majors**

An additional Professions major in French, German, Japanese, or Spanish language can be combined with a primary major in any other academic area to expand your language skills and increase global opportunities. This additional major does not lead to a degree.

- French Professions
- German Professions
- Japanese Professions
- Spanish Professions

## **Minors**

- Chinese Language
- French Language
  - French/Francophone Area and Culture Studies
- French for Design and Merchandising
- German Language
  - German Area and Culture Studies
- Japanese Language
  - Japanese Area and Culture Studies
- Spanish
  - Latin American and Spanish Area Studies
- Film Studies
- Global Studies

# FOREIGN LANGUAGES & CULTURES – STUDENT LEARNING GOALS & OUTCOMES

Students graduating with a foreign language major from the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race (SLCR) will be able to:

- Communicate effectively in the foreign language in a variety of speaking situations.
- Communicate effectively in the foreign language via proficient, articulate, and well-organized writing.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the spoken foreign language in a variety of listening situations.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a wide range of foreign language written materials.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the culture(s) of the foreign language studied.

When students graduate from our program, they will also be able to:

- Recognize and describe the cultural forces (history, social values, economic practices, and politics) that shape the professional practices in the target culture;
- Analyze and critique professional behaviors and practices (through the history of specific companies, case studies, or current business events) within their context, including conducting basic research tasks;
- Examine the validity of one's own behaviors and norms in the professional world by contrasting and comparing them with those of the target culture;
- Perceive and value diversity and reinterpret the place of the self as an identity culturally situated in the global context.

## Specifically for Chinese majors

- Express themselves competently in a variety of oral situations.
- Read and comprehend texts of an intermediate high level in both traditional and simplified characters.
- Write at an intermediate high level of proficiency.
- Understand most native speakers when they speak clearly on familiar topics.
- Employ a variety of coping strategies to communicate orally and verbally.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with various aspects of Chinese culture, literature, cinema and history.

## Specifically for French and Spanish majors

- **Linguistic Proficiency**
- Students can demonstrate an advanced low level of proficiency (as defined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines) in the target language in speaking, writing, listening and reading.
- **Speaking:** Students are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home,

and leisure activities. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest.

- **Writing:** Students are able to meet basic work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate, describe and express viewpoints about familiar topics in major time frames with some control of aspect.
- **Listening and Reading:** Students are able to understand short conventional narrative and descriptive texts (spoken and/or written) such as descriptions of persons, places, and things, and narrations about past, present, and future events with a clear underlying structure though their comprehension may be uneven. They can understand the main facts and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge.

### **Intercultural Competence**

- Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of other cultures and their products. By the time they graduate from our program, they will be able to:
- Recognize and describe the historical, social, economic, and political forces that shape society in the target culture;
- Analyze and critique the products of the target culture (film, literature, art, popular culture, media, etc) within their context, including conducting basic research tasks;
- Examine the validity of one's own cultural beliefs, behaviors and norms by contrasting and comparing them with those of the target culture;
- Perceive and value cultural diversity and reinterpret the place of the self as an identity culturally situated in the global context.

### **Specifically for second majors in French, German, and Spanish for the Professions**

- **Linguistic proficiency:** Students can demonstrate an Intermediate Mid-High level of proficiency (as defined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines) in the target language in speaking, writing, listening and reading.
- **Speaking:** Students are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in basic professional conversations on topics related to formal introductions, education, description of companies, products or services relevant to their specific career, as well as traveling for business. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, marketing, management, advertising and relevant current events within their professional area. In addition, they are equipped to conduct mundane business practices in person or by phone, such as scheduling or canceling appointments.
- **Writing:** Students are able to meet basic work writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate, describe and express viewpoints in major time frames about professional topics such as companies, products, and services, employment, marketing, management, advertising and current events as they relate to their specific career. In addition, they can write a complete résumé including details about their education and past professional experience, and compose business letters on specific issues.
- **Listening:** Students are able to understand short conventional spoken narratives and descriptive dictated texts related to simple topics/practices relevant to their professional area with basic understanding of time structures, though their comprehension may be uneven. They can

understand the main facts and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge.

- **Reading:** Students are able to understand short conventional written narrative and descriptive texts such as education, description of companies, products or services, employment, marketing, management, advertising and current events relevant to their professional area, with basic understanding of past, present, and future events though their comprehension may be uneven. They can understand the main facts and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge.
- **Intercultural competence:** Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of other cultures and their norms as they relate to professional dealings.

## For Humanities-International Area Studies Majors

### Goals

All undergraduate students completing a bachelor of arts degree in humanities or social sciences will engage in a variety of activities designed to further the programs' learning goals:

- To expose students to a thorough and integrated study of social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, and other related disciplines as appropriate to the degree pursued, that will allow them to develop a deep, broad, diverse, and transdisciplinary perspective and understanding.
- To expose students to a diversity of ways to integrate and synthesize knowledge from multiple sources.
- To help students develop means of expressing concepts, propositions, and beliefs in coherent, concise and technically correct forms appropriate to their professional goals.
- To help students think, react, and work in imaginative ways stimulated by a higher degree of disciplinary synergies that will promote transdisciplinary innovation, and divergent thinking.

### Outcomes

A student completing the BA in Humanities degree program will be able to:

- Integrate learned skills and knowledge derived from the study of the humanities and/or the arts and other related disciplines, acquiring the necessary depth and breadth required for a transdisciplinary perspective.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using disciplinary-appropriate methods for research, critical analysis, creative work or professional performance.
- Communicate conclusions, interpretations, and implications clearly, concisely, and effectively, both orally and in writing for different types of audiences.
- Articulate and apply values, principles, and ideals derived from an individual as well as integrated understanding of their areas of study that demonstrate awareness of current societal challenges.



## Career Possibilities

- Public relations/marketing/advertising
- International business, banking, finance
- Travel/tourism/hospitality
- Law enforcement
- Health and social services
- Publishing/editing/journalism
- Translation and interpretation
- Customs and immigration
- Customer service and personnel management
- Education/teaching
- Science, engineering, and technology
- Music, film, drama, photography
- Apparel and Merchandising
- Peace Corp and Aid Agencies

## Skills Learned

- Proficiency in a language other than English
- Cross-cultural communication
- Awareness of cultural differences
- Global experience
- Ability to adjust to new environments
- Enhanced speaking and writing abilities
- Enhanced reading and listening comprehension skills
- Independent, critical and creative thinking with increased analytical and problem-solving skills
- Learning an additional language can be advantageous in the job market.
- Gaining new perspectives of our own and other's languages and cultures

**Learn more about each Language here, which includes minor and major checklists:**

**CHINESE:** <https://slcr.wsu.edu/chinese/>

**FRENCH:** <https://slcr.wsu.edu/french/>

**GERMAN:** <https://slcr.wsu.edu/german/>

**JAPANESE:** <https://slcr.wsu.edu/japanese/>

**SPANISH:** <https://slcr.wsu.edu/spanish/>

## Foreign Languages Departmental Advanced Placement Credits

In collaboration with the Office of Admissions and the Office of the Registrar, the School has established a process of awarding advanced placement credits for prior knowledge of a foreign language.



For example, students who place in a higher level course such as Japanese 203 in their first course at WSU, and receive a grade of B or better, can earn credits for Japanese 101 and Japanese 102 if not already earned by previous AP or transfer credit.

<https://slcr.wsu.edu/advanced-placement/>

## Foreign Language Placement Testing

### Placement Test Information and Guidelines

Incoming students wishing to take any foreign language course in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese or Spanish past the first semester level (101), must be placed into the appropriate level language course before they can enroll.

- **Non-native speakers** of these languages and heritage/native speakers of Spanish take an online proctored placement exam (see instructions below) to determine language level placement.
- **Heritage speakers** and native speakers of Chinese, French, German, Italian and Japanese are encouraged to contact the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race to discuss placement by e-mail. Contact Laurie Heustis, Foreign Languages Advisor.

<https://slcr.wsu.edu/placement-testing/>

## Internships and Research: CAS 497, CES 498, FOR\_LANG 495

### What Is an Internship?

Internship: Skills, Training, Development, Personal Growth.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, an internship is a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent.

It is structured and supervised professional experience, within an approved agency, for which a student earns academic credit. It is guided by learning goals and supervised by both academic and agency personnel.”

### Paid vs. Unpaid

Some internships are paid and some are unpaid. It all depends on what the employer is willing and able to offer. The recent court ruling regarding internship states that interns must be the primary beneficiary if it is an unpaid experience at a for-profit company. Furthermore, the intern cannot be displacing a regular employee.

Benefits of an Internship **to the Student:**

- Opportunity to work in career related or professional environment
- Provide career awareness for the students
- Give the students the chance to evaluate, reflect upon and try a career field • contributes to the student's personal and professional development through
- challenging work assignments
- Provide valuable experience that helps secure future employment
- Provide professional networking contacts
- Help the student develop job search skills
- Develop self-confidence as they identify skills, abilities and talents.

Benefits of an Internship **to the Employer:**

- Strengthen ties to alumni and the community
- Give the employer access to quality candidates
- Students contribute new energy and ideas to the work place.
- Scheduling can be flexible to meet the employer's needs

**Internships offered through the SLCR**

Cross-Disciplinary Arts & Sciences: CAS 497: <https://slcr.wsu.edu/cas-497/>

Comparative Ethnic Studies: CES 498: <https://slcr.wsu.edu/cas-498/>

Foreign Languages & Cultures: FOR\_LANG 495: <https://slcr.wsu.edu/forlang-495/>

## **FACULTY**

Check out our website here for the full list of Foreign Languages and SLCR faculty:

<https://slcr.wsu.edu/faculty/>

## **ADVISING**

Check out our website here for the Foreign Languages Advisor and to make an appointment:

<https://slcr.wsu.edu/staff/laurie-heustis/>