



## CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Major Possibilities: Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

## Chinese, French, German, & Spanish

### Quick Facts

- Careers related exclusively to language proficiency are limited and usually filled by native speakers. But combining language proficiency with other skill sets enhances opportunities in government, business, medicine and health care, law enforcement, teaching, technology, the military, communications, industry, social service, and marketing.
- A person fluent in more than one language can have an advantage over peers in the workforce. When applying for a job, your potential employer will know that you can help them expand their clientele.
- Professionals with language proficiency often travel and communicate with international colleagues more throughout their careers.
- If you didn't grow up learning multiple language, becoming fluent in another language takes hard work, but it is possible. Potential employers will recognize your effort. And once you learn *how to learn* languages, the next language is easier.
- Internships help shape professional identities, develop 21<sup>st</sup> century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

### Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Synopsis

Majors are offered in French, German, and Spanish, and minors in French, German, Spanish, and Chinese. Majors are expected to acquire a strong grasp of language and a working knowledge of literature, culture, and film. The capstone experience, an integrative project in which students undertake significant writing and research in the target language, provides a solid grounding that prepares students as much for graduate work as for sophisticated original projects in many fields. Students often pair their major or minor with expertise in another discipline. For information on the language placement exam, consult the course catalog.

#### CHINESE

The Chinese language is the most widely spoken language in the world, with more than 1.3 billion speakers – that's 1/6 of the world's population. There are many job opportunities for a graduate fluent in Chinese because China is one of the fastest growing markets in the world economy and, correspondingly, political relationships with China are increasingly important.

#### FRENCH

French is used as an official language in 29 countries, including Belgium, Canada, Haiti, Madagascar, and Switzerland. French is spoken in both North and South America, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and Europe. While about 220 million people speak French today, a French demographic project estimates approximately 700 million people will speak French by 2050.

#### GERMAN

German is related to Danish, Dutch, English, Norwegian and Swedish. Used as the official language of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and parts of Italy and Belgium, German is the most widely spoken native language in the European Union.

#### SPANISH

Spanish is of great importance to the United States because of neighboring Mexico. If you are interested in employment stateside, fluency in Spanish will greatly enhance your ability to find a job. Spanish is also spoken as the official language in Spain, most of South and Central America, and parts of the Caribbean. It is the second most prevalent first language in the world (after Mandarin Chinese).

## Language Learning Tips

- Through study abroad or other means, visit a country whose people speak the language you are learning, and learn the culture and customs of that country.
- The most valuable language-learning experience is immersion.
- Read foreign newspapers and magazines to keep up with world events.
- Listen to popular music in the language you are learning.
- Most language students cannot speak as well as they can read and write. Practice speaking aloud. Take oral presentations seriously.

## Sample Job Titles

Accounts Manager	Correspondent	Int'l Relations Specialist	Operations Management
Advertising Executive	Cultural Specialist	Intelligence Specialist	Public Relations Officer
Anthropologist	Customs Officer	Journalist	Researcher
Archivist	Diplomat	Law Enforcement Agent	Sales Representative
Banker	Editor	Lawyer	Social Worker
Broadcaster	FBI/CIA Agent	Legislator	Teacher
Civil Service Officer	Financial Analyst	Linguist	Technical Writer
Columnist	Foreign Service Officer	Media Specialist	Translator/Interpreter
Conference Planner	Health Services	Mission Worker	Travel Writer
Consultant	Hotel Manager	Museum Curator	Tour Guide
Copywriter	Immigration Officer	National Security Agent	Urban Planner

## Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

APAICS - Washington, DC	Lawyers Bureau - Cordoba City, Argentina
Austin-Travis County Mental Health Center - Austin, TX	Mitchell Elementary School - Georgetown, TX
CIA Internship Program	Office of Attorney General Child Support Division - Austin, TX
Colorado Springs <i>Gazette</i>	Magazine Publishers of America
Council on Foreign Relations - New York	Sojourner Tours - Georgetown, TX
Delegation of European Commission	Southwestern University Language Departments - Georgetown, TX
FBI Internship Program	The American University - Washington DC
Georgetown ISD - Georgetown, TX	The Carter Center - Atlanta, GA
Glasshouse Policy - Austin, TX	The Museum of Modern Art
Global Experiences Internships	The Roswell Group - New York City, NY
US House of Representatives - Washington, DC	US House of Representatives - Washington, DC
ICADS Internship Program	

## Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

Administrative Coordinator (Baylor College of Medicine)	Flight Officer (US Navy)
Assistant Director (Language Stars)	Interpreter (Bluebonnet Trails MHMR)
Bill Analyst (Texas Senate Research Committee)	Language Assistant (Ministry of National Education, France)
Business Development Manager (Paladin)	Legislative Correspondent (TX House of Representatives)
City Year Corps Member (City Year)	Paralegal (Baker Botts LLP, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center)
Community Organizer (La Union del Pueblo Entero)	PR Director (Dale Johnson Systems, Inc.)
Content Editor (Expert Village)	Program Coordinator (Congressman Pete Sessions)
Case Manager/Life Skills Teacher (SafePlace-AmeriCorps)	Residential Life Coordinator (The Village School)
Development Associate (Habitat for Humanity)	SEO Specialist (Webvega)
Editorial Assistant (Benchmark Education Company)	Service Coordinator (AmeriCorps)
ESL Instructor (Houston Community College)	Teacher (Peace Corps, Mariposa Montessori, Fulbright Commission)
Director for Strategic Partnerships (National Hispanic Institute)	Technical Sales Representative (National Instruments)
Family Advocate (Casa Marianella)	Therapeutic Child Care Specialist (Helping Hand Home for Children)
Federal Law Enforcement Officer (U.S. Secret Service)	
Financial Advisor (Erben Associates; Edward Jones)	

## **Professional Associations**

American Association for Applied Linguistics  
American Association of Teachers of French  
American Association of Teachers of German  
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Literary Translators Association  
American Translators Association  
Association of Language Companies  
Summer Institute of Linguistics  
Linguistic Society of America  
Modern Language Association  
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators