Modern Languages & Literature

At Gonzaga, you will come to understand the importance of being a citizen of the world, and learning a second language is part of that educational journey. Gonzaga's Modern Languages and Literature faculty believe that by encountering new cultures, students develop tolerance for differences, an understanding of other cultures and languages, and greater insight into themselves and their own cultures. Our diverse and unique class offerings provide the framework for a challenging curriculum, while the faculty provide the foundation for our programs' success with a typical class-size of 15-18 students. Nearly 90% of majors study abroad in Argentina, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Japan, Spain - or a number of other spots around the globe.

THE PROGRAM

Gonzaga’s Modern Languages and Literature Department offers majors in French and Spanish, and minors in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The department also offers coursework in Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese and occasionally offers courses in languages such as Irish Gaelic and Tagalog. Lower-division language courses enable students to attain foreign language proficiency before going on to upper-division courses in literature, film, culture, and linguistics. Gonzaga’s classrooms allow students to learn languages in a multimedia environment. A flexible placement policy allows incoming students with foreign language skills to begin their coursework at the most suitable level.

By devoting ourselves to research within a range of cultural and theoretical areas and innovation in language acquisition, we are committed to promoting a dynamic and diverse learning community wherein students may comfortably develop personal talents and human qualities.

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 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 participate 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.

A **major or minor in International Studies, with an Asian Studies concentration**, is available through the International Studies program. This concentration requires proficiency in either Arabic, Japanese, or Chinese. At Gonzaga, students can take elementary to advanced-level Japanese language courses, as well as elementary to intermediate Arabic language courses and then pursue additional language studies through an approved study abroad program. Japanese language students may study for a semester or a year at Sophia University in Tokyo or at Akita International University in Akita, Japan. Arabic and Chinese language students may study in the CET Program in Amman, Jordan, or the Beijing Center in China respectively.

OUTCOMES

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, the travel industry, 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, and Peace Corps, students find their secondary language skills indispensable.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Many students have goals to pursue careers in law, government, and academia; thus, they attend a variety of graduate programs at diverse universities. Below is a sample of schools recent graduates in modern languages have attended or are attending:

- American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird)
- Boston College
- Duke University
- Georgetown University
- Monterey Institute
- Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan)
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles

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