Modern Languages & Literature

In today's increasingly global society, a well-rounded education should include foreign language skill and cross-cultural understanding. The international nature of business and politics, as well as changing demographics within the United States, have dramatically increased the demand for individuals who can navigate around linguistic and cultural barriers. These individuals will hold increasingly pivotal roles in industry, government, and education.

THE PROGRAM

Gonzaga’s Modern Languages Department offers majors in French and Spanish, and minors in French, German, Italian Studies, and Spanish. The department also offers one to two years of Arabic, depending on demand. Lower-division language courses enable students to attain foreign language proficiency before going on to upper-division courses in literature, film, culture, and advanced language. 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.

Gonzaga’s Modern Languages faculty believe that by encountering new cultures, students develop tolerance for difference, an understanding of other cultures and languages, and greater insight into themselves and their own cultures.

The French program prepares 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 course work. 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 German minor helps students develop grammatical competence and achieve oral proficiency. Upper-division courses that coordinate with the International Studies program focus on reading, writing, and speaking skills. German plays an important role in higher education and the global economy. Gonzaga’s German program develops and perfects the German language skills that help students succeed in these environments. 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 Studies minor is an interdisciplinary program designed to foster understanding and appreciation of Italian culture. A language-intensive minor in Italian is also available. The Gonzaga in Florence program enriches the Italian Studies program by enabling students to immerse themselves in the heart of Italy’s history and tradition for a summer, a semester, or a full year.

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 six-week summer immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Both immersion programs include coursework in Spanish (Spanish/Latin American literature and films), cultural trips, and a home-stay with a local family.

gonzaga.edu/languages
family. In South America, Gonzaga has also begun offering study abroad programs for Spanish students in Valparaiso, Chile, and in both Buenos Aires and Cordoba, Argentina.

Students can get a limited number of elective credits through these programs. A select group of students may also study in El Salvador through a program that focuses on issues of poverty and social justice. More than one-tenth of the U.S. population speaks Spanish, and trade with Latin America continues to expand. Awareness of Hispanic culture have

OUTCOMES
Mastery of a foreign language noticeably enhances students’ career prospects, especially when combined with study in other disciplines. Department 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. Through programs such as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Peace Corps students find their secondary language skills indispensable. Additionally, 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 Gonzaga graduates 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

THE PEOPLE
Gonzaga’s Modern Language Department faculty members offer personalized attention and academic mentoring in the classroom and during individual advising sessions. In addition, all faculty teach beginning and intermediate language classes.

Faculty Publications
Gabriella Brooke

Luis García-Torvisco
- Several articles on the literature, culture, and film of the democratic period in Spain.

Rebecca Marquis

Torunn Haaland

Benjamin Semple
- Several articles on 14th Century writer Christine De Pizan.

Rebecca Stephanis