LIBERAL ARTS OVERVIEW

Many majors, such as Modern Foreign Language and Religious Studies, give students experiences they need to succeed in a variety of areas. Modern Foreign Language can give students many skills to thrive in other fields. Students from our Modern Foreign Language major have also gone into the fields of medicine, business, law, and education. Their courses, projects, and involvement have given them “transferable skills,” which are skills that can be used for most careers. Some transferable skills learned by Modern Foreign Language majors are problem solving, critical thinking and public speaking. The core of the Modern Foreign Language major is to better the students’ understanding of their own values. In turn, this helps students feel comfortable working with others who may not have the same values, beliefs, and vision, and helps them to appreciate those with differing views. Students in Modern Foreign Language will gain and understanding of themselves and the world around them.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What is Modern Foreign Language?

“Language plays a unique role in capturing the breadth of human diversity. We are constantly amazed by the variety of human thought, culture, society and literature expressed in many thousands of languages around the world. We can find out what people think only through their language. We can find out what they thought in the past only if we read their written records. We can tell future generations about ourselves only if we speak or write to them.

Studying a foreign language can improve your cognitive- and critical-thinking abilities. Recent surveys indicate that more than 80 agencies of the federal government rely on professionals with intermediate to high-level competence in foreign languages. Foreign language study provides the ability to gain an understanding of the cultures of U.S. trading partners. American multinational corporations and nongovernmental organizations need people with foreign language abilities. The United States’ ability to compete effectively in global markets means that more and more businesses deal with companies in other countries. They need employees who can communicate in foreign languages and understand other cultures. An employer will see you as a bridge to new clients if you know their language.”

Related Career Titles (additional education or experience may be required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accountant</th>
<th>FBI Agent</th>
<th>Investment Analyst</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising Manager</td>
<td>Filmmaker</td>
<td>Journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising Copywriter</td>
<td>Finance Director</td>
<td>Laboratory Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Traffic Assistant</td>
<td>Financial Planning Assoc.</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Foreign Diplomat</td>
<td>Library Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Dealer</td>
<td>Foreign Correspondent</td>
<td>Linguist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>Foreign Exchange Trader</td>
<td>Media Specialist</td>
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</table>
How can you get ready?

- Choose an additional academic area of study to supplement the foreign language, preferably one that requires a high degree of technical skill. Most people with foreign language ability use those skills to assist them in a different career field such as business, education, etc.
- Related courses to study include geography, history, civilization, foreign relations, international law and world economics.
- Decide and choose which language is necessary for your career. Decide the level of foreign language ability you will need to acquire for success in your career.
- Travel to a foreign country or study abroad to learn different cultures.
- Study and practice your foreign language skills by reading foreign newspapers, magazines and books.
- Watch foreign movies and listen to foreign broadcasts to maintain your fluency.
- Volunteer your language skills to churches, community organizations and programs that work with people who speak your target language.
- Participate in summer programs, co-ops and internships to improve your skills.
- Pen pal with a correspondent from a foreign country.
• Contact professional associations and read their publications to learn about job opportunities.
• Research job postings on the Internet to get an idea of jobs in which knowledge of a foreign language is useful.

**Related Major Skills**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking to groups</th>
<th>Reading/writing another language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarifying ideas</td>
<td>Writing clearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding historical language change</td>
<td>Explaining complex concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading critically</td>
<td>Interpreting data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating information</td>
<td>Evaluating evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparing translations/interpretations</td>
<td>Gathering information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with original sources in many fields</td>
<td>Organizing materials/information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarizing ideas</td>
<td>Compiling/recording data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating results</td>
<td>Collaborating as part of a team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determining the needs of others</td>
<td>Acknowledging value systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening carefully</td>
<td>Interviewing non-judgmentally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing instruments</td>
<td>Reporting and editing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing hypotheses</td>
<td>Reading for content and structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with research subjects</td>
<td>Communicating between cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding cultural diversity</td>
<td>Assessing needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapting to other cultures</td>
<td>Weighing values</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What about the future?**

“Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow 29 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth reflects increasing globalization and a more diverse U.S. population, which is expected to require more interpreters and translators.”

For more specific job outlook information regarding related occupations, refer to [http://www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

**Available at Albright College Career Development’s Resource Library**

• [Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors](#), by Julie DeGalan and Stephen Lambert
• [Career Opportunities in the Travel Industry](#), Jody Colbert
• [Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types](#), by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
• [Careers for Born Leaders and Other Decisive Types](#), by Blythe Camenson
• [Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types](#), by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados and Other Multilingual Types, by H. Ned Seelye and J. Laurence Day
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for History Buffs and Others Who Learn From The Past, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Patriotic Types and Others Who Want to Serve Their Country, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Talkative Types and Others with the Gift of Gab, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Travel Buffs and Other Restless Types, by Paul Plawin
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers, by Wilma M. Rivers
- Opportunities in International Business Careers, by Jeffrey S. Arpan
- Opportunities in Overseas Careers, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Travel Careers, by Robert Scott Milne and Marguerite Backhausen

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Job and Internship Search Links

- Top Language Jobs [http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk/](http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk/)
- Hispanic-Jobs: [http://www.hispanic-jobs.com](http://www.hispanic-jobs.com)

Professional Associations Links

- Foreign Language Associations [http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml](http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml)

Miscellaneous Resources

- Center for Applied Linguistics [http://www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org)
- American Field Service (AFS) [http://www.afs.org/](http://www.afs.org/)
- Foreign Policy Association, [http://www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)
- Global Service Corps, [http://www.globalservicecorps.org](http://www.globalservicecorps.org)
- International Affairs Resources, [http://www2.etown.edu/vl/](http://www2.etown.edu/vl/)
- AmeriCorps, [http://www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)
- Union of International Associations, [http://www.uia.org](http://www.uia.org)