

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Proficiency in other languages and global cultures is today a major goal for pursuing diplomatic and teaching careers, as well as diverse job opportunities in banking, marketing, advertising, and other areas. Acquiring competency in a second language provides you, as a student, with the opportunity to develop skills that are marketable in a growing number of national and multinational businesses, as well as government service. The Department of Languages and Cultures provides programs, including study abroad, that enable you to achieve fluency, cultural understanding, and knowledge of literature and history, as well as current business and economic climates. Meritorious students are eligible to apply for our language scholarships and awards.

Career Opportunities

As a graduate of West Chester University's programs of study, you will be qualified to fill positions in any field that requires facility in other languages or an understanding of international cultures. Our graduates have taken positions in a variety of fields, including education, government, travel, commerce, law enforcement, international business, publishing, social services, and transportation.

For those who may desire to pursue advanced study, graduates of the program have attended the following institutions:

Harvard University
Middlebury College Language Schools
University of Delaware
University of Kansas
University of Massachusetts – Amherst
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
Yale University

Many of the students enrolled in graduate programs have received scholarships, assistantships, and other awards.

Undergraduate Degrees

The major programs in languages and cultures provide an advanced educational experience and establish a flexible basis for a variety of vocations that call for bilingual skills and cross-cultural understanding.

West Chester offers the following undergraduate degree programs:

Bachelor of Arts in French, German, Russian, or Spanish

Bachelor of Arts with Elective K-12 Certification (Pennsylvania state certification): French, German, Russian, or Spanish

Minors

West Chester also offers you the opportunity to study a language at an advanced level while majoring in another language or field of study, such as business, political science, social studies, music, or physical education. West Chester offers minors in French, German, Italian, Latin, Linguistics, Russian, Spanish, Latin American studies, and Russian studies.

Additional Language Offerings

Courses in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, and Japanese are offered; however, a major is not available. Greek, Latin, and Biblical Hebrew (Classical and New Testament) are offered as part of the Classical language program.

Interdisciplinary Programs

The department participates in the interdisciplinary programs in American studies, ethnic studies, film studies, Latin American studies, Russian studies, and women's studies. These programs enable you to develop a synthesis of knowledge from several disciplines, including anthropology and sociology, art, economics, geography and planning, languages and cultures, and political science.

Special Study Opportunities

You will have the opportunity to devote a summer, a semester, or a year to study programs in France, Spain, Latin America, Germany, and other countries, as well as Asia and Africa.

Facilities

As a student, you will have an excellent language laboratory at your disposal. The lab supports instruction in languages spoken in more than 30 countries and offers the latest technologies for listening, speaking, and viewing materials.

Typical Courses

Advanced Latin Prose Composition
Contemporary Spanish-American Literature and Film
Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Composition
French Theatre to 1900: In Context
French Civilization on Film
Grammar and Stylistics
Italian Cinema
Italian Culture
Russian Literature, Culture, and Film in Translation
Survey of German Film

Culture courses are taught in both the target language and in English, and occasionally involve faculty from other disciplines.

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Related Student Activities

Alpha Mu Gamma (national language honor society)

Chinese Club

French Club

German Club

Italian Club

Pi Delta Phi

Russian Club

Sigma Delta Pi

Spanish Club

Award and Scholarships

In addition, the department sponsors awards and prizes for students, such as the Mary Ann Reiss Foreign Studies Award, Lombardi–Peters Award, Celia Esplugas Foreign Study Award, Ethel Staley Award, Matilda Lipscomb French Study Award, Alexander von Humboldt Scholarship, and Alfred D. Roberts Languages Scholarship.

Advanced Degrees

Master of Arts in French or Spanish

Master of Education in French or Spanish

Faculty

The languages and cultures faculty is active in a variety of professional organizations and has contributed widely to the professional literature, particularly in areas such as women's studies, phonetics and linguistics, studies in culture and civilization, literature, literary criticism, English as a second language, and technology and pedagogy. Their research and development have led to the implementation of pilot programs in Pennsylvania, most notably in Chinese, Japanese, Latin, and Russian.

Furthermore, the department includes highly qualified part-time faculty members, graduate assistants, and visiting faculty from other countries. We offer a graduate research assistantship.

You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program from the contact person listed below, or our website.

For More Information

Dr. Jerry M. Williams, Chairperson

Department of Languages and Cultures

109 Main Hall

West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-2700

jwilliams2@wcupa.edu

Web page: http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.flg/

Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-3411 • Toll-free: 1-877-315-2165

E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu

WCU home page: www.wcupa.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcupa

