



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

GERMAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The Foreign Language Programs within the Department of Languages and Literatures serve the mission of the College of Letters & Sciences and the University as a whole by encouraging students to develop diverse perspectives, civic responsibility and engagement, and personal and professional integrity while preparing for careers and life-long learning. Learning a foreign language benefits our students by improving their ability to make connections across the curriculum with other subjects. The Department offers a comprehensive curriculum in French, German, Spanish, as well as an array of courses in Japanese, Chinese and Arabic for undergraduates seeking to fulfill major, College, and University requirements, as well as those seeking language preparation for other opportunities.

Through our programs, students develop skills in listening comprehension, oral and written communication, and textual literacy, which facilitate awareness and appreciation of the contributions of other cultures to contemporary society; cultural sensitivity and respect through engagement with those cultures; and critical thinking skills, through reflecting on the differences and similarities between the target cultures and their own.

The Department's mission is to help students become tolerant, open-minded citizens and sensitive, knowledgeable people who understand linguistic and cultural diversity, and can adapt to change as competitive participants in our increasingly diverse, multi-cultural and global society. Our mission is to help students develop the linguistic, literary and cross-cultural competence necessary to live, work and be lifelong learners in our diverse world.

The Foreign Language Program's expertise in various world languages reaches out into and serves the larger community and region. Faculty, Academic Staff and/or student interns provide valuable paid or volunteer assistance with translation and interpreting. Service learning components in some courses help students see real-life application of their foreign language skills. These activities benefit area institutions and organizations while creating ties between the university and surrounding communities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

- **Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world**

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world through...

- The study of foreign languages and their literatures, civilizations, and cultures;
- Communication of their views and perspectives in the target language;
- Connections with diverse communities;
- Engagement with current social and political trends and issues; and
- Reflection on their own language(s) and culture(s) through cross-cultural comparison.

- **Intellectual and practical skills**

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Inquiry and Analysis skills through...

- Close reading of literary and non-literary texts (visual texts—film, commercials, news broadcasts, art, etc.—aural texts—songs, podcasts, etc.)
- Discussion and analysis of texts;
- Establishing a connection between language and culture;
- Establishing a connection between literary texts and past and current events. (This will enable them to appreciate the value of literature as a tool for understanding the complexities of human condition, history and culture, among others); and
- Identifying a variety of literary periods and styles.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Critical and Creative Thinking skills through...

- Analyzing literary and non-literary texts in their historical, social and cultural context; and
- Establishing a connection between literary and non-literary texts and past and current events.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Written and Oral Communication skills through...

- Written homework, both at the lower levels (paragraphs) as well as at the upper levels (essays, take-home exams, papers, and reaction papers among other assignments);
- Oral communication assignments as well as guided oral presentations; and
- Exposure to varied textual models and genres (written, aural and visual).

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Information Literacy skills through...

- The application of basics of style, such as MLA or Chicago, in assigned papers; and
- Development of digital literacy.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Teamwork and Problem-Solving skills through...

- Partnered activities, in-class group work, group discussions, group presentations.

- **Personal and Social Responsibility**

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Civic Knowledge and Engagement—Local and Global- through...

- Participation in civic and cultural events pertaining to local and worldwide issues;
- Participation in on-campus events geared to the university and other communities (for example UW-W's Language Day); and
- Connections with UW-W's Foreign Language clubs.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Intercultural Knowledge and Competence through...

- The study of a foreign language and of the literature and culture(s) of foreign countries;
- Contacts with diverse communities; and
- Participation in civic and cultural events pertaining to local and worldwide issues.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Ethical Reasoning and Action through...

- The exploration of cultural challenges in search for ethical solutions; and
- The establishment of comparisons between other cultures and their own in terms of environmentalism, generational differences, nationalism, and prejudice, among other topics.

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning through...

- The development of the appreciation and respect for differences in cultures through presenting varying global perspectives; and
- Interactions with individuals and groups of other languages and cultures in the United States and abroad.

- **Integrative Learning**

UW-Whitewater students who major or minor in foreign language will develop Integrative Learning (including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies) through...

- Travel study;
- Service learning, which will result in the construction of bridges between people, businesses, organizations and government agencies for mutual benefit; and
- The study of cultural practices of the communities they will be serving in their chosen professional fields.