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Modern Languages

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Major Information

St. Bonaventure offers foreign language majors and minors in French and Spanish, as well as a minor in Arabic Studies.

Competency in a foreign language is one of the hallmarks of the liberally educated person. It allows an individual to communicate with people of foreign countries on his or her own terms and to gain firsthand, authentic knowledge of foreign cultures by allowing entrance into their world of expression and thought.

The study of another language not only opens up a foreign culture for students and gives them an acquaintance with an unfamiliar set of language conventions and forms, it also provides a contrast against which their own cultural and linguistic conventions can be perceived and better understood.

We live in an age in which the effective interaction with foreign nations is essential not only for economic prosperity, but for mutual survival. Consequently, it is important that students gain the skills and knowledge necessary to deal successfully with nations of differing cultural heritages.

Curriculum

Majors and non-majors in modern languages receive grounding in the fundamental skills of the languages: speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing in humanistically oriented courses. There is special emphasis on everyday culture of the foreign country as well. In addition, majors take advanced courses in conversation and composition, literature and full-semester courses in culture and civilization.

Careers

Knowledge of a foreign language can open doors to many existing career opportunities and is frequently a decisive factor in hiring and promotion. The following are just some of the career opportunities available to those who have knowledge of a foreign language and culture:

- airlines and travel industry
- federal service (CIA, FBI, DEA)
- law
- church-related work
- diplomatic corps
- teaching
- foreign service
- international trade
- banking and finance
- marketing
- interpreter/translator
- journalism — foreign correspondent
- library work
- medicine
- Peace Corps
- public relations
- radio and television
- recording industry

Students who meet the qualifications can be inducted into foreign language honor societies.



Sigma Delta Pi

