



THE CAREER CENTER

Romance Languages and Literatures

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. So why study Romance Languages? In our increasingly global economy, the breadth of a Romance Language Concentration makes it an ideal liberal arts major. We offer courses in the histories, politics, cultures, customs, and literatures of countries that speak Romance languages. Whether you are interested in mastering a language, becoming familiar with important literary figures, or studying contemporary international issues, as a Romance

Languages concentrator, you will be developing a diverse set of skills, which will provide a foundation for work in government, business, education and human services, and the arts.

Related fields include Linguistics, History, Philosophy, History of Art, Film, Music, Comparative Literature, Classical Studies, Women’s Studies, American Culture, Latino and Caribbean Studies, Afro-American and African Studies, Public Health, Business, and International Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Research/Project Development Skills

- Gathering information
- Summarizing ideas
- Using original sources
- Compiling/recording data
- Working with research subjects
- Establishing hypotheses
- Evaluating research results

Analytical Skills

- Weighing values
- Reading critically
- Thinking critically
- Comparing interpretations
- Interpreting data
- Assessing evidence
- Analyzing problems
- Synthesizing information

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills

- Understanding other cultures
- Adapting to other cultures/situations
- Working as part of a team
- Acknowledging value systems
- Active listening
- Interviewing non-judgmentally

Communication Skills

- Reading and writing in another language
- Reading for content and structure
- Understanding historical language change
- Writing clearly and carefully
- Explaining complex concepts
- Presenting to groups

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Most concentrations sponsor specific student groups like an undergraduate organization or an honor society. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are

developing in your classes. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to foreign language concentrators to improve proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Romance Languages concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the ability to compile and analyze complex data may be equally useful whether working as a doctor, an attorney specializing in international law, or a freelance journalist.

Research/Project Development Skills

Market researcher
Export/import specialist
Orchestra music administrator
Sociolinguist 
Catalog librarian 

Analytical Skills

Physician 
Epidemiologist 
International law/Trade lawyer 
Immigration lawyer 
Grants and contracts manager
National security agency analyst
Foreign policy analyst 
Legislative staff member
CIA/FBI agent

Many of our concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Romance Languages and Literatures graduates.

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills

Foreign correspondent
Arts/antiques auctioneer
Corporate travel planner
Human resources director
Special events coordinator
City cultural events planner
Customs/immigration officer
Embassy support staff
Court interpreter
Disaster relief worker
International student advisor
Bilingual program teacher
Manager, language school
Social worker 

Communication Skills

Teacher
College Professor 
Film critic
Technical writer (all media)
Manager, translation services
Advertising copywriter
Professional association editor
Public relations representative

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL) offers three concentrations that enable students to gain proficiency in Spanish, French, or Italian through understanding the structure and use of languages. The Department also offers a concentration in Romance Languages and Literatures, which allows students to include more than one romance language in their concentration, along with minors in Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian.

An intermediate level of language study is prerequisite to all concentrations. The focus is on spoken and written language mastery and an understanding and interpretation of Romance languages and cultures.

For more specific information, visit the LS&A Bulletin or the department website.

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

4108 Modern Languages Building
734-764-5344
lsa.umich.edu/rll

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsa.umich.edu/cgis or global.umich.edu

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
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