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.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

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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

### 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
- Manager, language school
- Social worker

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.

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

### 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.

### Next Steps/Resources
To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis) or [global.umich.edu](http://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](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

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