



STUDENT LIFE

# THE CAREER CENTER

## Slavic Languages and Literatures

### CONCENTRATIONS: RUSSIAN and POLISH

**Minors: Cultures & Literatures of Eastern Europe (CLEE),  
Czech, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian**

### FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. A concentration in Russian or Polish will allow you to attain proficiency in the language, acquire an understanding of the culture, and develop your knowledge of the civilization and history of a significant area of the world. Through course offerings in other Slavic languages and literatures, you will expand your learning to much of Eastern European culture. A concentration in Russian or Polish also provides opportunities for experiential learning abroad.

A second language acquisition in Slavic languages builds the central skills of speaking, writing, and reading another language along with related abilities, such as adapting to other cultures, analyzing information from diverse sources, and carrying out research projects. Skills and abilities acquired by concentrators in Russian or Polish are highlighted below.

**Related fields include** Germanic, History, Political Science, Economics, and Art History.

### SKILLS AND ABILITIES

#### Communication Skills

- Writing/speaking another language
- Understanding historical language change
- Interviewing
- Working as a member of a team
- Writing clearly and accurately on complex issues

#### Analytical Skills

- Interpreting information/data
- Comparing interpretations
- Reading critically
- Examining evidence

#### Research/Project Development Skills

- Using original sources
- Gathering information
- Establishing hypotheses
- Summarizing ideas
- Evaluating research results

#### Cross-Cultural Skills

- Developing cultural sensitivity
- Understanding a culture through its literature
- Acknowledging value systems
- Adapting to/functioning in other cultures
- Working with persons from other backgrounds

### 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. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Most concentrations sponsor specific student groups like an undergraduate organization or an honor society. 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.

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## FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

In our increasingly global world, the skills you will gain as a Russian or Polish concentrator will prepare you to succeed in a number of fields. Your familiarity with one of Europe's major cultural areas is important in preparing not only for the new economies emerging in Eastern Europe, but also for work in any cultural context different from our own.

### Communication Skills

Political lobbyist  
Publisher's sales representative  
Corporate trainer  
International marketing consultant  
K-12 teacher/college instructor   
Academic advisor  
Corporate coach  
Editor, magazine  
Journalist/correspondent  
Technical writer  
Interpreter

### Analytical Skills

Defense analyst  
National security linguist  
Military analyst  
Commerce department attaché  
Director, public affairs  
Law enforcement agent  
Trade negotiations lawyer 

With their analytical and communication skills, Russian and Polish concentrators have discovered opportunities in a wide range of careers, such as research, business, law or government. In addition, Slavic concentrators may choose to continue their education in graduate or professional school. Below is a list of career fields compiled from follow-up studies of Slavic graduates.

### Research/Project

#### Development Skills

World Health Organization researcher  
Museum curator   
Librarian   
Entrepreneur  
Foundation program manager  
Theater company manager

#### Cross-Cultural Skills

Foreign Service officer  
Immigration caseworker  
International trade consultant  
Travel agent/tour guide  
Adoption agency caseworker  
Director, study abroad program  
Director, exchange program  
Liaison to overseas plant management

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O\*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

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## CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The concentration in Polish or Russian requires nearly 30 credits beyond second-year language proficiency, including courses in reading and speaking, literature, history, politics, film, and culture.

All minors require 16 credits, except CLEE, which requires 15. Courses may be chosen from a variety of topics such as literature, history, politics, film, and culture.

Students can receive credit towards these degrees for study abroad or summer internships. Please contact the department for further details.

### Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

3040 Modern Languages Building  
734-764-5355  
[lsa.umich.edu/slavic/undergraduate](http://lsa.umich.edu/slavic/undergraduate)

### Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall  
734-764-0332  
[lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://lsa.umich.edu/advising)

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## 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 read the Slavic Department's newsletter, featuring student and alumni experiences, and more: [lsa.umich.edu/slavic/aboutus/newsletter](http://lsa.umich.edu/slavic/aboutus/newsletter)

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 student organizations to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX\\_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [connect2community.umich.edu](http://connect2community.umich.edu)

### The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building  
734-764-7460  
[careercenter.umich.edu](http://careercenter.umich.edu)  
[facebook.com/careercenter.umich](https://facebook.com/careercenter.umich)  
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[linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan](https://linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan)