Department of World Languages

MISSION STATEMENT

The disciplines of English as a Second Language, French, German, and Spanish are combined in Muskingum University’s Department of World Languages. Academic majors are offered in French, German and Spanish, with teacher licensure as an option. Minors are offered in the same three languages and in Teaching English as a Second Language. Interdisciplinary majors with a language component include International Affairs and International Business. The departmental mission is consonant with the university’s Liberal Arts mission and includes the following goals and outcomes:

**Goals:**
Providing students with an understanding that the language of a people is an important part of its culture, and that culture manifests itself through the arts, literature, history, and through linguistic, sociological, and political processes.

Providing students with curricular and co-curricular programs, including study abroad (required), that guide them toward proficiency in listening and reading comprehension, speaking, writing, and intercultural awareness.

Providing programs to ensure that graduates will be well prepared to enter a changing job market.

**Outcomes:**

For non-majors and non-minors studying ESL, French, German, and Spanish:
Students will develop awareness and sensitivity to aspects of the target culture.
Students will develop a level of proficiency that enables them to perform linguistic tasks in the target language.

For French, Spanish, and German majors, minors, and concentrators:
Students will achieve a level of cultural understanding that will allow them to interact appropriately both personally and professionally in the context of cultural norms.

Students will interact in the target language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a level that involves situations and issues requiring a higher degree of critical thinking skills.

Departmental goals are addressed in our course syllabi, in classroom activities and assignments, in the significant use of technology to support learning, and in a number of outside activities that complement classroom learning. All programs advocate a study abroad experience. The department requires that majors spend a period of residence in a country where the target language is spoken. Outcomes at all levels are assessed through ongoing formative and summative evaluation. Major program outcomes are demonstrated in the production and public presentation of a scholarly paper, and in the completion of a major portfolio containing writing and speech samples.