

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

WORLD LANGUAGES

What can I do with a major in a world language (American Sign Language, Arabic, French, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, etc.)?

Possible careers for students interested in majoring in a world language include:

- Customs or border patrol agent
- Customer service representative
- Diplomat
- International education specialist
- Flight attendant
- International businessperson
- International development expert
- Journalist or writer
- Social service provider
- Teacher
- Translator/interpreter

Some of these careers may require additional study beyond the bachelor's degree.

Students who enjoy studying languages may also be interested in majors such as ethnic studies, global studies, area studies, international relations, anthropology, development studies, or international business.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in a world language?

Students planning to major in a world language at a baccalaureate institution should take courses to develop their proficiency in that language, **along with courses that meet general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Specific requirements vary according to the transfer university, so it is recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in a world language should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Language Major

- Students planning to study a world language will be expected to be proficient in the language by the time they reach junior status at a university. At that point, most world language students will be studying literature in the target language and often planning to study abroad. Students who are already proficient in reading, writing, and speaking the language they intend to study may not need to take any specific classes at Seattle Central. Students who are not already proficient in the language they plan to major in should plan to take as many classes as possible while at Seattle Central, preferably two full years of language instruction. It is best to complete each three-quarter sequence at the same college.
- World language programs rarely have a specific math requirement beyond the college-level math needed to meet graduation requirements.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Many universities offer majors in at least a few world languages, but the languages offered may be very limited. Make sure that the universities you are considering offer a major in the language you intend to study.

What languages can I major in at universities in or near Seattle?

Pacific Lutheran University - Chinese, Classics (Greek and Latin), French, German, Norwegian, and Spanish

Seattle Pacific University – Classics, French, Latin, Linguistics, Spanish, Russian

Seattle University – Majors in French and Spanish; minors only in Chinese, Italian, and Japanese

University of Puget Sound – Chinese, Classics, French, German, Japanese, Spanish

University of Washington, Seattle – Majors in Chinese, Classics, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Linguistics, Near Eastern Languages, Norwegian, Slavic Languages, South Asian Languages, Spanish, Swedish; minors only in American Sign Language (ASL), Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, Technical Japanese

To find programs in additional languages, elsewhere in Washington, or in other parts of the country, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Research professional organizations in your area of interest for more information on further education and career possibilities.