

World Languages at MHS

ASL ☙ FRENCH ☙ GERMAN ☙ HMONG ☙ JAPANESE ☙ SPANISH

WHY STUDY A WORLD LANGUAGE?

Language education not only contributes to students' career and college readiness, it also helps develop the individual as language learners take on a new and more invigorating view of the world. They come to understand the world better because of their knowledge of speakers of another language – of people who share many of the same hopes and dreams for their future. While perspectives may differ among speakers of different languages, more similarities exist than we might imagine. **However, it is only through knowing the language of others that we can truly understand how they view the world.** And this is what makes the language student a 21st Century skilled learner!

ARE YOU READY FOR COLLEGE?



THE UNIVERSITY
of
WISCONSIN
MADISON

UW-MADISON ACADEMIC COURSE PREP

Your high school record should demonstrate both rigor and breadth in the types of course work you pursue. A competitive academic record should show challenging advanced-level work, such as AP, honors, or IB courses, in as many areas as possible, while maintaining a strong GPA. **The following chart shows the number of years that most admitted students studied in each subject area.**

Subject Area	Years
English	4
Math	4
Social Studies	3-4
Science	3-4
Single World Language	3-4
Additional Academic/Fine Arts	2



U of Minnesota ACADEMIC COURSE PREP

Applicants are expected to complete the minimum course requirements listed below. Admission is competitive and successful applicants typically exceed these requirements. These are the minimum required courses; **most students will exceed this expectation.**

Subject Area	Years
English	4
Math	4
Social Studies	3
Science	3
Single World Language	2
Visual and Performing arts	1

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?

"To confront the twenty-first century challenges to our economy and national security, our education system must be strengthened to increase the world language skills and cultural awareness of our students. America's continued global leadership will depend on our students' abilities to interact with the world community both inside and outside our borders. **For college and career readiness, our students need to be proficient in other languages, regardless of whether they choose to transition directly to the workforce or to post-secondary education."**

-- Committee for Economic Development, Washington, D.C.

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HOW GLOBAL ARE YOU?



Students who are college and career ready in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

Students appreciate that the twenty-first-century classroom and workplace are settings in which people from often widely divergent cultures and who represent diverse experiences and perspectives must learn and work together. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and writing, and **they are able to communicate effectively with people of varied backgrounds**. They evaluate other points of view critically and constructively. Through reading great classic and contemporary works of literature representative of a variety of periods, cultures, and worldviews, students can vicariously inhabit worlds and have experiences much different than their own.

--Common Core Standards: English Language Arts

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WORLD LANGUAGES CAN DO FOR YOU?

- Learning a second language gives a child the ability to communicate with people s/he would otherwise not have the chance to know, opening the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries.
- Skills in languages other than English make those not bound for postsecondary study more attractive employment candidates in a wide range of careers where communicating with diverse customers is necessary.
- Learning a second language at an early age has a positive effect on intellectual growth and enhances a child's mental development. Strong evidence shows that time spent on world language study strongly reinforces the core subject areas of reading, English language literacy, social studies and math. World language learners consistently outperform control groups in core subject areas on standardized tests, often significantly. (Armstrong & Rogers 1997; Saunders 1998; Masciantonio 1977; Rafferty 1986; Andrade 1989; Kretschmer & Kretschmer 1989)
- Several studies indicate that individuals who learn a second language are more creative and better at solving complex problems than those who do not. (Bamford & Mizokawa, 1991)
- Students who were in "rigorous" programs in high school—that included three years of world language study—were likely to earn better grades in college and less likely to drop out. (Horn & Kojaku 2001)
- Studying a world language helps students understand English grammar better and improves their overall communication and problem-solving skills. Beyond the intellectual benefits, knowledge of a world language facilitates travel, enhances career opportunities, and enables one to learn more about different peoples and cultures. (National Research Council 2007)

WHAT SHOULD YOU SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEAR?

- If you took GERMAN, FRENCH or SPANISH in 7th AND 8th grade, sign up for level 2 of your language of study.
- If you began GERMAN, FRENCH or SPANISH in 7th grade but did NOT continue in 8th grade you must sign up for level 1 of a language.

WORLD LANGUAGES OFFERED AT MHS:

- ASL (I and II) *
 - FRENCH (I – V/AP)
 - GERMAN (I – V/AP)
 - HMONG (I)
 - JAPANESE (I – IV/AP)
 - SPANISH (I – V/AP)
- * Levels III & IV offered through Youth Options

