

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT**  
College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures*

### **DEPARTMENT MISSION**

The goal of the Foreign Languages Department is to provide students with an opportunity to become conversant with the languages and cultures of other nations. Our mission is consistent with institutional purposes and College core curriculum goals. We foster the development of proficient oral and written communication skills in various foreign languages. Also, as an integral part of a liberal arts curriculum, our programs offer instruction that is necessary to the development of educated and aware individuals who are capable of adapting to a changing and increasingly diverse world. The department provides a sequence of courses that leads to familiarity with the foreign language and the cultural experience associated with it. Our language programs aid students in acquiring fluency in a language, acquiring a thorough understanding of a foreign culture, and experiencing a variety of linguistic approaches to the world. The Foreign Languages Department offers opportunities for study that promote the understanding and value of human, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

### **PROGRAMS**

The department offers five major concentrations and two minors in French and Spanish. Both languages have similar requirements for their concentrations and minors (with the exception that there is not a concentration in Spanish & Linguistics). The concentration programs are: the General Program, the Honors Program, the French/Spanish & International Studies Program, the French & Linguistics Program and the Teacher's Certificate Program. The General Program is recommended for students who want to gain a general background in the target language, its literature and culture, or who plan to pursue academic and/or professional goals in careers requiring some specialized linguistic knowledge and skill. The Honors Program is designed to provide rigorous research methods and cultural experiences (via residence abroad) for students who plan to continue their foreign language education at the graduate level. The International Studies Program, in addition to preparing students for fluency in a foreign language and culture, offers them a global perspective of cultural diversity and human relations. The Linguistics Program broadens students' study of language by providing general linguistic theory and practice in analysis of phonology, morphology and syntax. The Teacher's Certificate Program prepares students to become effective foreign language teachers at the secondary school level.

### **EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES**

#### **All concentration programs**

In the French and Spanish concentration programs, graduates in all programs will:

1. achieve mastery of the target language at the Advanced-high level of competency, as defined by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.
2. acquire an understanding of the literature and culture of the countries whose language they study.
3. gain a general knowledge of the linguistic processes which make up a native speaker's competence.

#### **General Program**

In addition to the outcomes for all programs, General program graduates will:

- be prepared to meet future academic/occupational requirements related to their major field of study.

**Honors Program**

In addition to the outcomes for all programs, Honors program graduates will:

- demonstrate mastery of research skills in their major field of study.
- be prepared to meet academic requirements for admission into graduate study in their major.

**French/Spanish & International Studies Program**

In addition to the outcomes for all programs, French/Spanish & International Studies program graduates will:

- gain an international/global perspective in their understanding of a foreign culture.

**French & Linguistics Program**

In addition to the outcomes for all programs, French & Linguistics program graduates will:

- demonstrate knowledge of linguistic theory and analysis skills.

**Teacher's Certificate Program**

In addition to the outcomes for all programs, Teacher's Certificate program graduates will:

- be prepared to teach their major field of study in Michigan secondary schools.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS****All concentration programs**

For the three common educational outcomes, students in all concentration programs will:

1. take the Departmental Placement Test of the target language upon completion of their major program requirements. This will be complemented with an interview by the faculty adviser to assess speaking skills.
2. take departmental tests (upon completion of related courses) designed to assess knowledge of literature and culture of the target language.
3. submit written essays in the capstone course FRN/SPN 309 (Advanced Composition and Grammar), which involves written work and is intended to give a solid basis for oral and written expression. Representative written essays will be collected for blind review by a faculty panel. This assessment will evaluate students' general knowledge of the linguistic processes which make up a native speaker's competence.

**General Program**

General program graduates will complete an alumni survey two years after graduating from the University of Michigan-Flint. The survey addresses alumni's perception of their preparation in the major, and whether they have met academic/professional goals related to their field of study.

**Honors Program**

Honors program graduates will:

- defend successfully their Honors thesis before a thesis defense committee.
- complete an alumni survey within two years of graduation, in which they will rate their preparation to meet academic requirements for admission into graduate study in their major.

**French/Spanish & International Studies Program**

French/Spanish & International Studies program graduates will:

- maintain a portfolio with a minimum of 3 essays, from various courses taken in fulfillment of their major, which demonstrate the student's ability to examine a foreign culture from a global perspective.

**French & Linguistics Program**

French & Linguistics program graduates will:

- take the "Epreuve d'évaluation linguistique" test.

### **Teacher's Certificate Program**

Teacher's Certificate program graduates will:

- take the State of Michigan teacher certification examination in their major field.

### **GOALS**

#### **All concentration programs**

At least 85% of students will attain an Advanced-high level of language proficiency on the Departmental Placement Test and oral interview (for interview, with a score of at least 3 in each category).

At least 85% of students will attain a score of 85% or better on the departmental literature and culture tests.

At least 85% of students will produce written work that demonstrates their general knowledge of the linguistic processes which make up a native speaker's competence, as demonstrated by an average score of 3 or better on the Scoring Rubric for the evaluation (by a faculty panel) of FRN/SPN 309 essays.

#### **General Program**

At least 75% of alumni will state that their major field of study prepared them to meet academic/occupational goals.

#### **Honors Program**

At least 90% of students will successfully defend their Honors thesis before a thesis defense committee.

At least 85% of students will state that their major field of study prepared them to meet graduate admissions standards.

#### **French/Spanish & International Studies Program**

At least 85% of students will produce written essays that demonstrate, by an average overall score of 3 or better in the Scoring Rubric for international/global perspective essays (evaluated by a faculty panel), their ability to examine a foreign culture from a global perspective.

#### **French & Linguistics Program**

At least 85% of students will demonstrate, by a score of 85% or better on the "Epreuve d'évaluation linguistique" test, their knowledge of linguistic theory and analysis skills.

#### **Teacher's Certificate Program**

At least 85% of students will pass the State of Michigan teacher certification examination in their major field.

### **FEEDBACK**

The Foreign Languages Department will collect assessment data over a span of two years (based on frequency of alumni survey and FRN/SPN 309 capstone course offering), then meet to evaluate the data collected. Based on our review, changes in programs and the assessment process will be considered if necessary.

### **BUDGET**

The Foreign Languages Department will bear the costs involved for photocopies and preparation (postage and envelopes) of alumni surveys.