CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"More than ever, success in the world depends on what you know, not where you live. Technology has leveled the playing field and 'flattened' the world…it has illustrated the importance of foreign languages in communicating and forming partnerships with citizens from other cultures and countries."

-Margaret Spellings,
former U.S. Secretary of Education

Career opportunities for students who have acquired skills in one or more foreign languages are virtually limitless. Our graduates are using their language skills in a variety of work settings:

▶ Megan Colon, '01–U.S. Senate
▶ Clara Fischer, '10–Graduate student in German, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
▶ Michael Swanson, '10–U.S. Army Medical Officer, Germany
▶ Andrew Kightlinger, '08–Award-winning film director
▶ Spencer Hopewell, '13–English Assistant at the Steigerwald Landschulheim, Wiesentheid, Germany
▶ Christine Fossum, '05–Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Oslo, Norway
▶ Maggie Olson, '12–Administrative Services Coordinator, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
▶ Zach Morris, '10–Graduate Student in Teaching German as a Foreign Language, University of Bamberg, Germany
▶ Cassandra Robertson, '05–English teacher, Seoul, South Korea

Of equal importance are the countless non-commercial benefits gained by studying a foreign language. Many students add a second major or minor in a foreign language strictly for the enjoyment of learning about a different culture and language, and for building international friendships.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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National President, Pi Delta Phi

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AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES
French | German | Spanish

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Nine percent of the world's population grows up speaking English as a first language; by 2050, the number is expected to be five percent. Don't you wonder what the rest of the world is saying?

Hot chocolate in Belgium, spring break course 2013

The department offers majors and minors in French, German, Spanish, and Modern Foreign Languages (which combines the study of two languages). Classes are offered at all levels, from beginning, for which no prior experience is required, to advanced-level topics courses and seminars.

PLACEMENT AND CONTINUING STUDY

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart." –Nelson Mandela

Students with prior coursework in French, German or Spanish, and who desire to continue studying that language take a free, online placement examination before arriving on campus. The exam assures that students are placed into classes at the appropriate skill-levels. Students may, however, choose to study a new language to fulfill their general education requirements. The College also accepts AP credit for languages. Visit the department website for additional information.

STUDY AND INTERNSHIPS ABROAD

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness...broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime." –Mark Twain

German major Austin M. semester abroad in Germany, 2013

Many exciting opportunities to study and to work abroad are available and the majority of language majors spend at least one interim or semester in a foreign country. MDFL faculty also lead occasional January Interim and spring break courses to Chile, Belgium, Ecuador, France, Germany, Morocco, and Spain. Scholarships to study abroad are also available.

CLUBS AND HONOR SOCIETIES

In addition to active language clubs, our annual Celebration of Cultures Series features guest speakers, weekly conversation tables, dinners, field trips, film nights, and more.

Augustana College is also the only institution of higher education in South Dakota to sponsor chapters of all three national language honor societies that recognize academic achievement in French, German, and Spanish:
▶ Pi Delta Phi (French)
▶ Delta Phi Alpha (German)
▶ Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish)

Students who meet the requirements of an honor society are invited to join. Qualified students may also apply for a variety of national scholarships for summer study abroad.

DEPARTMENT FACTS

▶ Foreign Languages is among the top five most popular majors at Augustana (2012 US News College Rankings)
▶ 100 percent of MDFL majors are double majors; approximately one-third are also triple majors.
▶ 100 percent of MDFL graduates rated their foreign language instruction as good or excellent.*
▶ 100 percent of MDFL graduates were satisfied with their foreign language advising.
▶ 97 percent of MDFL graduates felt their employers were satisfied with their language skills.*
▶ 96 percent of MDFL graduates felt that opportunities to study abroad were excellent.*
▶ 5 MDFL graduates have received prestigious Fulbright Fellowships.

"I consider [the Modern Foreign Languages department] one of the best language/culture programs in the region and a huge benefit to a liberal arts education." **-2013 alum***

"The foreign language program far exceeded my personal expectations. My instructors were very qualified and excellent teachers. Thank you!" **-2012 alum***

"This is one of Augie's strong departments because of the faculty's commitment, creative use of resources, personal approachability, and high quality of teaching skills and lesson content." **-2012 alum***

*Source: 2013 MDFL Alumni Survey

Augie Spanish students in Chile, Interim course 2012