Fields of Concentration (Majors)

Seven different majors are offered by the department: Chinese language and culture, French, German, Japanese language and culture, modern languages, Russian, and Spanish.

In addition to the languages specified above, coursework also is regularly offered in Hungarian. For information on courses in English as a Second Language (ESL), see chapter 4. Students needing to begin instruction at one of the 100-level courses must complete the 100-level sequence before taking any 200- or 300-level courses. Students needing to begin with French 100, Spanish 100, or a 100-level course of their principal language in the modern languages major shall construct a program in consultation with their major advisor, making sure to take those specific courses designated in the description of the major. In no case will a student be required to take more than 11 units in the department, or more than a total of 15 units for the major.

1. The rule requiring special permission for election ahead of classification is waived for students taking language courses.

2. Skills acquired independently in foreign languages are evaluated by the department, and placement is assigned accordingly. The department grants credit by examination only for those literature courses offered by the department on the Beloit campus. Credit also may be granted to incoming students for a score of 4 or 5 in the Educational Testing Service advanced placement test.

3. Students certifying to teach a foreign language must earn at least 8.5 units in their major language.

4. Normally, at least 5 of the language units counted toward the major must be taken at Beloit College. Exceptions must be approved by the department chair in consultation with the respective language program.

5. Majors in the department of modern languages and literature are encouraged to take advantage of Beloit College’s numerous opportunities for study abroad. (See chapter 4 for a complete list of programs.) Majors going abroad must check with their language advisor before registering for courses abroad to find out which credits will count in the department.

6. We encourage additional types of experiential learning while abroad, such as volunteering in a local agency or organization, tutoring in after-school programs, and interning with a local company or organization.

7. Writing/communication: Courses in modern foreign languages offer students opportunities to become competent in four language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing. All four linguistic areas are important. The department of modern languages and literatures meets the college’s writing requirement by having students move from structured writing that reinforces the material learned in language classes—grammar points and vocabulary—to less guided writing in advanced classes where students use language creatively to analyze, describe, narrate, on the writing process—prewriting, writing, and rewriting—we are confident that the problem solving skills associated with this process will transfer to courses outside of our department.

Departmental Honors

In order to receive departmental honors in the department of modern languages and literatures, a student must be invited by a member of the faculty to complete a scholarly project in the senior year (1 unit of Special Project 390). Issued in the fall at the discretion of individual faculty members and approved by the department, invitations are based, among other considerations, on consistent excellence of coursework within the major. Students must have a grade point average of 3.6 within the department at the time of invitation. Additionally, to be awarded departmental honors, a student must complete his or her scholarly project to the satisfaction of the sponsoring faculty member and an additional faculty reader.
Minors
(6 units)
Five different language minors are offered by the department: Chinese, French, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.
1. Six departmental units in one of the following languages: French or Spanish at the 110 level or above; or Chinese, German, Japanese, or Russian at the 105 level or above.
2. With the pre-approval of the department, students may apply 2 units of language credit earned while studying abroad towards the minor.
3. No more than 2 units of college transfer credit may apply toward the minor.
4. At least 4 of the language units counted toward the minor must be taken at Beloit College. Exceptions must be approved by the department.
5. With the pre-approval of the department, students may count 1 unit of literature in translation toward the minor.

German Studies Minor
(6 units)
1. Students must complete six units of German-themed coursework. At least four of these units must be taken in the department of modern languages and literatures; the remaining units may be taken in other departments or abroad following approval by the advisor for the German studies minor.

Chinese Language and Culture Major
(12.5 units)
1. Nine departmental units:
   c. Two units of Asian literature or culture: Chinese 250, 255, 260, or 280. A student may fulfill 1 of these credits with a Japanese literature or culture course: Japanese 240, 260, or 280.
2. Three supporting courses:
   b. Two other supporting courses, 1 of which must be chosen from the following group of courses that focus on China: Anthropology 375*; Art History 150*, 250*; Comparative Literature 230*; Economics 206; History 150*, 210*, 310*; Interdisciplinary Studies 249, 288*; Philosophy 250; Political Science 236, 240, 241, 295*; or any one-time offering or topics course that deals primarily with China.

*If China is covered.

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to take at least 1 supporting course that deals primarily with modern China. Courses taken in a study abroad program may substitute for required courses, with the approval of the advisor.
3. Asian Studies 351 (.5 unit).
4. Majors are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester abroad in China at either of our partner institutions—Henan University or Shandong University.
5. Students may apply credit earned through Beloit College’s Center for Language Studies toward the major.
6. Native speakers of Chinese may not major in Chinese; however, they may receive credit as teaching assistants.
7. Writing/Communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.
French Major
(13 units)
Students who begin the major with French 100 will construct a major program in consultation with their advisor; this program will not exceed 11 units within the department nor more than 15 units total.
1. Nine departmental units (200-level and above):
   b. One unit of French literature numbered 240 or above.
   c. Five elective units in French.
2. Supporting courses (4 units). Choose one of the three options available:
   a. Four courses chosen from appropriate offerings in art history or history: English/Comparative Literature 190; Philosophy 110, 200, 205, 280; Political Science 280 or 285.
   b. A course in German, Russian, or Spanish literature is recommended.
   c. Students with double majors may use required courses in the other majors to count as supporting courses toward a major in French.
   c. The student may submit a proposal to the major advisor for an individual plan of courses for meeting the requirement of 4 supporting courses.
3. Majors normally spend one term in a country in which French is the common idiom. With the consent of the advisor, some courses completed abroad may be used to count toward the major.
4. Majors are expected to live at least one semester in the French House.
5. Writing/communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.

Japanese Language and Culture Major
(12.5 units)
1. Nine departmental units:
   c. Two units of Asian literature or culture in translation: 240, 260, or 280. A student may fulfill 1 of these credits with a Chinese literature or culture course: Chinese 250, 255, 260, 280.
2. Three supporting courses:
   b. Two other supporting courses, 1 of which must be chosen from the following group of courses that focus on Japan: Anthropology 375*; Art History 130, 235, 285*; Comparative Literature 230*; History 150*, 210*, 310*, 386*; Interdisciplinary Studies 288*; Political Science 235*, 236, 295*; Religious Studies 200*, 240*, 250*; or any one-time offering or topics course that deals primarily with Japan.
*If Japan is covered.
   c. One of the supporting courses may be chosen from the following group of courses that focus on East Asia: Anthropology 375*; Asian Studies 242; Art History 285*; Comparative Literature 230*; Economics 206; History 150*, 210*, 294*, 310*; Philosophy 250; Political Science 240, 241, 295*, 330*, 386*; Religious Studies 200*, 240*, 250*; or any one-time offering or topics course that deals primarily with East Asia.
*If East Asia is covered.
3. Asian Studies 351 (.5 unit).
4. Majors are strongly urged to spend at least one semester abroad at Akita International University, Kansai Gaidai University, or Rikkyo University. With the consent of the advisor, some courses completed abroad may be used toward the major.
5. Students may also apply credit earned through
Beloit College’s Center for Language Studies toward their six units of Japanese language required for the major.

6. Majors are strongly encouraged to live for at least one semester in Japan House.

7. Native speakers of Japanese may not major in Japanese; however, they may receive credit as teaching assistants.

8. Writing/communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.

Modern Languages Major
(12 units)
The modern languages major is designed for students who are language-oriented. It is in line with the college’s policy of liberal arts in practice and is highly desirable for students interested in international communications. For this major, a student draws up a comprehensive plan of studies that will include specific academic goals. The plan must be submitted to the department of modern languages and literatures for approval and be officially accepted before the student may declare the major.

Students who begin their study of the principal language at the 100-level will construct a major program in consultation with their advisor; this program will not exceed 11 units in the department nor more than 15 units total.

1. Eleven departmental units:
   a. Six units from either French, German, or Spanish at the 200-level or above; or Chinese, Japanese, and Russian from 110 or above. Courses must be taught in the principal language and must include:
      i. One unit of civilization/culture.
      ii. One unit of advanced composition or stylistics.
      iii. One unit of literature.
   b. Five units in no more than two modern foreign languages other than the one chosen under 1.a., above.
   c. Exceptions to the above must be approved by the department.
2. Supporting course (1 unit):
3. One relevant non-departmental course chosen in consultation with the advisor.

4. Students may count toward the modern languages major no more than 2 units of a language not regularly taught at Beloit.

5. The modern languages major normally spends at least a semester in a country in which his or her primary foreign language is spoken. The student should have, whenever possible, similar experience of the other languages and peoples included in the plan. This may be accomplished by studying abroad for a semester or academic year, by working abroad on a field term, or by private travel and work abroad during vacation terms. With the consent of the advisor, some courses completed abroad may be used toward the major.

6. Majors are highly encouraged to live at least one semester in a relevant language house.

7. Writing/communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.

Russian Major
(13 units)
1. Nine departmental units (above 105):
   a. One unit taken from each of the following groupings:
      i. Russian 210, 215.
      ii. Russian 250, 255, 260 or Russian Studies 250.
      iii. Russian 220, 310, 315.
   b. Russian 360.
   c. Five elective units in Russian.
2. Supporting courses (4 units). Choose one of the three options available:
   a. Students may select any 4 units from the following courses: English/Comparative Literature 190, 261; Economics 209; History 200, 205; Political Science 160, 240; Russian Studies 250, 270.
   b. Students with double majors may use required courses in the other majors to count as supporting courses toward a major in Russian.
   c. The student may submit a proposal to the major advisor for an individual plan of courses for meeting the requirement of 4 supporting courses.
3. Majors normally spend one semester or
academic year in Russia on Beloit College’s program in Moscow. With the consent of the advisor, some courses completed abroad may be used toward the major.

4. Majors are encouraged to live at least one semester in the Russian House.

5. Writing/communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.

Spanish Major
(13 units)

Students who begin the major with Spanish 100 will construct a major program in consultation with their advisor; this program will not require more than 11 units within the department nor more than 15 units total.

1. Nine departmental units (above 110):
   a. Spanish 210 or 214, 215, 240.
   b. One unit (working language) from Health and Society/Spanish 218, Spanish 250, Interdisciplinary Studies 288.
   c. Two units (contemporary cultures and literatures) from 230, 270, 282, 285, 295.
   d. Two units (foundational texts) from Spanish 290, 320, 370, 375.
   e. One elective unit in Spanish. (Experiential learning for credit is strongly encouraged.)

2. Supporting courses (4 units). Choose one of the three options available:
   a. Choose 4 courses from English/Comparative Literature 190, 261; History 283, 383; Political Science 272, 273. An elementary knowledge of Latin is desirable.
   b. Use 4 courses from a second major toward a major in Spanish.
   c. Submit a proposal to the major advisor for an individual plan of courses for meeting the requirement of 4 supporting courses.

3. Majors normally spend at least one semester abroad on Beloit’s Quito, Ecuador, program. With the prior consent of the advisor, some courses completed abroad may be used to count toward the major.

4. Majors are encouraged to live at least one semester in the Spanish House.

5. Writing/communication: See item 7 under Fields of Concentration.