

## Frequently Asked Questions

\* **Can I receive college credit for studying a language in high school?**

Yes, you can. If your first college courses in a foreign language are on the second year level or beyond (or above the first 9 hours in Spanish) and if you receive at least a B and a C (or better) on those first two courses, you will receive an additional six hours of credit for the first year that you skipped.

\* **When should I start or continue with my foreign language study?**

The sooner the better. You should build upon your high school skills by placing into an appropriate course already in your freshman year. In this way you will be able to achieve a higher level of proficiency that will make you more employable.

\* **Is there a foreign language requirement?**

Yes, for some students. For a B.A. degree, you need to take two foreign language courses (in the same language) above the first eight or nine hours. Or if you are a beginner, you will need to take 12 semester hours.

\* **Why should I study a foreign language? Doesn't everyone speak English?**

You will enhance your employability, regardless of your major, in this tight job market. Moreover, one in six jobs in Virginia depends upon foreign trade, and English doesn't help much when you are selling abroad, but only when foreign exporters are selling to you. Foreign language skills will increase both your cognitive and occupational flexibility in a future job market in which one third of all the jobs don't even exist yet!

\* **Is there a study abroad requirement for majors?**

Yes. Most students fulfill the requirement by participating in our study abroad programs, e.g. by studying in Spain, Mexico, Germany, China, or France. Some students are also combining study abroad with internships in the other student's major.

\* **Are there co-curricular opportunities?**

For sure. You don't learn another language just in class. We schedule conversation hours with native speakers in the language you're learning so

you can develop the habit of conversing in that language just like you do in English. Language clubs, international broadcasting and movies also help you get involved with the language and cultures outside of class.

\* **How do I register for my first foreign language class after Quest?**

Contact the department secretary Holly King at [hinking@radford.edu](mailto:hinking@radford.edu) in 232 Cook Hall, tel. 5120 for a placement appointment. You'll fill out a short data sheet and then take a 40 minute test. Based on that data the department chair will then place you in an appropriate class. If you've never had the language before in high school, at home or elsewhere, then send Holly that information plus your ID # and she'll enroll you in the beginning section of your choice. If that's an online class, then you'll need to see the department chair in Cook Hall 236 for online orientation after the placement.

\* **Will my first foreign language class be a beginning class even if I've taken the language in high school?**

Your first foreign language class at RU will be on a level appropriate to your abilities and will be determined by the placement procedure described above. No student may take a first year language course for credit toward graduation after successful completion of a second year or higher level course in that language.

\* **How do I declare a major and what are the advantages of being a declared major?**

Just pick up a Declaration / Change of Major Form from the Registrar's Office or get one from the department secretary in Cook Hall 232. Then make an appointment with the department chair which shouldn't take more than half an hour. You'll discuss requirements, study abroad, co-curricular activities, and careers. When you're on the department list of majors, you'll also be assigned your own foreign language advisor and you will receive announcements by email of interest to foreign language majors. Majors can complement each other. Most foreign language majors are double majors who are adding international knowledge and skills to a variety of career preparations.

\* **Are tutors available for students studying a foreign language?**

Definitely. Besides asking your professor for help, stop by the lab when an assistant is working that speaks the language you're learning. But your professor will be the best source of information about how the language works. A native speaker will often just know what works in the language.

\* **Are foreign language classes offered online?**

You can take the first three semesters of Spanish online. You'll need to read the online tips and see the department chair for orientation.

\* **Where can I obtain additional information about foreign languages or international programs?**

Feel free to contact:

- [Dr. Philip Sweet](#), Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures in 236 Cook Hall;
- any of the foreign language faculty;
- students who are majoring in a foreign language or who have studied abroad;
- the Advising Center for the College of Arts and Sciences in 111 Young Hall;
- the International Programs Office in 302 Cook Hall.