

*Institutional Effectiveness Report
Academic Year 2010-2011
Modern Languages*

*Wendy Caldwell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Spanish
Spanish Program Coordinator*

*Dr. Christopher D. Johnson
Chair, English, Modern Languages, Philosophy*

Mission and Goals

Vision Statement

The Modern Languages Program at Francis Marion University strives to provide the highest quality baccalaureate degree program offered at a small, comprehensive university in the southeastern United States. Accredited at the undergraduate level, more than half of our faculty holds a doctorate in the area in which they teach. Our small classroom environment promotes interaction among students and faculty. We strive to teach students to communicate effectively in the target languages and to develop an understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures and literatures. Our exchange programs provide students with opportunities for hands-on experience within the target culture and a chance to improve language skills in an immersion environment. We use technology to enhance classroom instruction with interactive, culturally authentic materials.

Mission Statement

The Department of English, Modern Languages, and Philosophy offers a major in Modern Languages with tracks in French, German, and Spanish. Minors and collaterals are also offered in these languages. The department provides the resources for students to acquire proficiency in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in French, German, and Spanish and to gain knowledge of the culture, the literature, and the civilization of countries where these languages are spoken. Career opportunities for foreign language majors include 1) teaching, 2) international business, 3) translation/interpretation, and 4) professions requiring a University degree with a background in the liberal arts. Modern language majors also frequently seek graduate degrees in foreign languages or related fields.

Objectives

1. Maintain a cohesive curriculum that prepares students for careers in languages, including post-graduate studies.

2. Promote and support existing study abroad opportunities for Modern Languages students during their college career.
3. Increase the spectrum of technology available for instruction.
4. Offer experiential learning opportunities through which students may expand their knowledge of foreign cultures and proficiency in the target languages.

Assessment Activities

The Modern Languages Program assesses student performance in a variety of ways. Students completing a Modern Languages major at Francis Marion University must take comprehensive oral and/or written language exams. All elementary and intermediate Spanish students must take comprehensive written exams and oral interviews in order to successfully complete their courses. French students must pass a nationally standardized Oral Proficiency Interview at the intermediate-advanced level in order to complete the French major. All elementary and intermediate students of German must pass a series of increasingly difficult examinations in order to receive credit for their course work. Upper level students in all language tracks must compose research papers in the target languages. Outcomes of student participation in experiential learning activities such as study abroad are evaluated by personal interviews and the keeping of journals as well as the grades assigned by instructors at our partner institutions.

Primary Issues Identified During 2010-2011 with a Review of Actions Taken During 2010-2011 for the Modern Languages Program

Issues of Major Concern	Actions Taken
Update textbook program for elementary and intermediate Spanish courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A lengthy textbook program review led to the adoption of <i>Exploraciones</i> for the Spanish 101-201 general education sequence (to be integrated in fall 2011 term). ● <i>Facetas</i> was chosen for Spanish 202 (to commence in fall 2011).
Expand opportunities and promote participation in travel abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The French Coordinator organized and led a trip to France in May for selected students. ● While our liaison for Spanish-speaking countries travelled to Spain to study, she started preliminary research in order to identify a suitable exchange location for our students in Spain. ● Our German exchange liaison accompanied four Honors students and two McNair Scholars to the Federal Republic of Germany. ● Two FMU alumnae attended the summer German language and culture course in Schmalkalden in June/July 2010. ● Two undergraduate students attended the Lambrecht/Berlin seminar in July 2010.

<p>Increase the range of technology available to students</p> <p>Enhance departmental website to offer more resources for our students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French and Spanish faculty worked together to write an IT grant for a smart classroom. They were successfully awarded two grants (Spring 2009 and Spring 2010), and the equipment was installed in the newly designated Mod. Langs. classroom. • An additional grant was awarded to the ML program in fall 2010 to update the language laboratory (installed May 2011). The following equipment was purchased with funds: 12 Lenovo PC's; 1 server station; updated Sony Soloist Software for the new machines and Virtuoso Software for the server. Sony Soloist software includes a digital comparative recorder and media player application that allow students to listen to digital audio and video programs while simultaneously recording their voices. Playback and voice analysis features allow students to compare their own speech patterns to those of native speakers in foreign language programs. Soloist is specifically designed for language learning and is compatible with most software accompanying foreign language textbooks. The Virtuoso Digital Language Lab is a software interface which provides interactive language lab functions, student collaboration capabilities, instructional control of student stations and assessment and standardized lab testing tools. • Our program's Webmaster continues to enhance the ML website with online resources for our students.
<p>Increase participation in experiential learning activities on campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish faculty hosted conversational language tables for students in fall and spring semesters. • An experiential learning course, Spanish 497 (Spanish Teaching Methods), was offered in the fall semester. Students were introduced to second language acquisition theory and foreign language teaching methods during the first five weeks. The remainder of the semester was spent teaching Spanish language classes for the 3K and 4K classes at the Richardson Center for the Child.

Through both the continued development of opportunities in the Modern Languages program as well as the students' increased awareness of the advantages of acquiring a second language for greater success in the global market, we have seen the number of majors and minors increase, particularly in Spanish. As of January 25, 2011, the total number of ML majors was 40, which includes several double majors, who have listed ML as their second major. However, this number does not take into account the number of minors. In the same query, there were 28 minors recorded in Spanish alone. In conclusion, the Modern Languages program remains committed to promoting quality language instruction for its students. The ML faculty continue to strive to stay current with technological advances in the profession and to offer experiential learning opportunities for their students.