

Areas of Focus: Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

1. In addition to offering basic language instruction at the lower-division level, the Department serves the wider, humanistic goals of the University by providing undergraduate and graduate courses in language, literature, linguistics, culture, and civilization. It will continue to be an integral part of the liberal education of our students, which implies the importance of globalization and cultural literacy as they enter the twenty-first century job market and an enhancement of the University's international dimension.
 - a) Undergraduate offerings in a broad range of languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish), as well as graduate programs in Romance Languages (French and Spanish), demonstrating that the Department and its faculty are committed to the liberal arts mission of the University. Emphasize the quality of our instruction, seek innovative ways to strengthen our majors, and improve professor/student ratio. Develop new courses which would fulfill the literary heritage requirement. Develop an MAT program in collaboration with the College of Education to coordinate the training of foreign language teachers in both the Memphis City and Shelby County schools.
 - b) Involvement of faculty in scholarship in a diverse range of areas of specialization, all within the context of professional norms of the discipline of foreign languages (literature, culture, linguistics, pedagogy). The diversity of the Department and the subfields in the foreign language discipline precludes the possibility of one particular area of focus for the faculty, but the strong research component of the Department's tenure and promotion guidelines ensures that all faculty are actively involved in this aspect of the Department's activities.
 - c) The Department is at the forefront on a national level in the development and teaching of business foreign language, offering a wide range of courses in several languages, and with faculty participating both locally and nationally in workshops and conferences in this field (Lapuente, Vivar, Anzaldo-Gonzalez, Thompson, Manopoulos, Nenon, Matsuda). Strengthen programs with the College of Business (IMBA) and the Business Language Workshop.
 - d) The Department is active in the promotion and enhancement of foreign language education outside of the classroom and with the community through its successful study abroad programs (Nenon, Hempel, Guerra), the Foreign Language Fair for area high school students, and the Business Language Workshop (Nenon, Thompson, Lapuente, Matsuda).
 - e) Seek appropriate technology and support for the Language Lab.
2. The Department's focus areas correspond to those of the University (Business, Learning Technologies, and Teacher Education) and the College (Teacher Education). Many of our Spanish, French and German majors become teachers in the Memphis City/Shelby County school system or in private schools. After receiving their BA, they can go on to a licensure program in the College of Education. The major language sections would like to emphasize this career goal for students. In

addition to Spanish, French, and German, the less commonly taught language sections use information technologies for their classes (video editing/clips, PowerPoint presentations, and Web-enhanced instructions.) A number of our students also pursue graduate studies in the field of literature and several go on to some of the best Ph.D. programs in the country.