

Choosing a Language at William Jewell College

Arts and Literature

- ❖ Consider **Arabic**: Arabic culture offers a wealth of interest in calligraphy, literature, music, painting, and architecture.
- ❖ Consider **French**: France played a part in the development of the major arts and literatures since the Middle Ages and her many contributions include gothic architecture, Romantic opera, and *nouveau roman*.
- ❖ Consider **Japanese**: Japanese writing systems appeal to students interested in calligraphy. Temples and shrines have unique architectural designs, and Japanese movies and animation have influenced pop culture.
- ❖ Consider **Latin** or **Greek**: Many “modern” styles, genres, and forms originated in the ancient world (like tragedy, comedy, epic, lyric, satire, and many more!). Read ancient and medieval literature for yourself—no translations necessary!
- ❖ Consider **Spanish**: Spain and Latin America have a long and healthy tradition of the arts, for example, *modernismo* in literature and Arab mosques and baroque cathedrals in architecture.

Business and International Relations

- ❖ Consider **Arabic**: The language of the Arabic world, spoken in 25 countries by approximately 325 million people, plays an important role in commerce and international relations.
- ❖ Consider **Japanese**: Japan enjoys a strong corporate relationship with the United States, and Japan is one of the strongest economies in the world. Students who are interested in employment with Japanese firms such as Toyota, Honda, and Sony may want to consider the study of Japanese language and culture.
- ❖ Consider **Spanish**: With many Spanish speakers living in the United States, services need to be offered in Spanish. Professionals who can communicate in Spanish and have experienced at least one Spanish speaking culture in their course of study can expand their network of service.

History of Ideas

- ❖ Consider **Arabic**: The history and development of Arabic and Islamic thought differ considerably from Western thought and provide a unique contrast.
- ❖ Consider **French**: France has made contributions in developmental and Freudian psychology, historical studies, philosophy, political theory, and religious ideas.
- ❖ Consider **Japanese**: The history of the development of thought and Asian philosophy differ considerably from Western thought and provide a unique contrast.
- ❖ Consider **Latin** or **Greek**: Read about the beginning or the development of theories and concepts (like “democracy” or “republic” or “just war”), in their original times, cultures and words.

Pre-Professional Programs (Law, Engineering, Medicine)

- ❖ Consider **Latin** or **Greek**: Latin and Greek, like other highly inflected languages, “train the brain” to see patterns and applications; it’s like “Critical Thinking 101”! Be able to “decode” the meaning of Latin phrases used in professional jargon: *sine die*, *habeas corpus*, *non compos mentis* (etc. *ad nauseam*).

Sciences and Mathematics

- ❖ Consider **French**: France, a major scientific and technical partner for the US, is second in the world in private and public funding of research and development and is a major leader in mathematics, high energy physics, medical research and genetics, electronics and aerospace technology.
- ❖ Consider **Latin** or **Greek**: The vast majority of scientific terminology is derived from Latin and/or Greek. Know who, what or where those unfamiliar words are, instantly, as well as the differences between similar-sounding words: *podiatry*, *parathyroid*, *hypoglycemia* (*ad infinitum*).

Service (Education, Ministry, Nonprofit, Nursing, Recreation and Sport)

- ❖ Consider **French**: French is spoken by almost 2 million Americans at home and is one of the working languages of the Red Cross and Peace Corps; the US welcomes over 1 million French every year and is a major tourist and vacation destination for French-speaking Canadians.
- ❖ Consider **Latin** or **Greek** in preparation for seminary: Latin and/or Greek were the languages used by Jerome, Augustine, Origen, Benedict and other important figures of the early Church.
- ❖ Consider **Spanish**: Many social service agencies need professionals who can connect with the growing Spanish-speaking community in the US. Many short and long-term mission opportunities involve working with Spanish-speaking communities both in the United States and in Latin America and many churches are located in demographically changing communities. Providing outreach ministries to the new Spanish-speaking residents of our communities means knowing both the language and the culture of the new residents.