

Which language is the best one to take?

The best language to take is the one the student would enjoy learning. Language and culture are intricately related. So, to build proficiency in a language is also to develop an understanding of the culture(s) associated with it. Here are some reasons for taking the languages offered:

The Value of Studying American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is the preferred language of the Deaf community in the United States and much of Canada. Recent data indicates that ASL is the fastest growing language in the USA and is estimated to be the fourth most commonly used language on the North American continent. This unique language uses visual-gestural modalities of manual signs, facial expressions, and body signals to convey complex linguistic information as well as rich Deaf traditions of visual poetry, narratives, and theater. ASL studies also provide Deaf cultural insights into the values and outlooks of Deaf people, and social and educational aspects of deafness.

Finally, ASL students gain practical training for entering a range of professions. As social, community, legal and educational services have expanded nationwide; many career possibilities have opened for those interested in professional work in deaf-related fields. ASL studies provide excellent preparation to students for professional careers as sign language interpreters, sign language instructors, counselors, government specialists, audiologists, speech pathologists, program administrators, community service personnel, and many other related vocations.

The Value of Studying French

French is spoken by 500 million people in over 43 countries in the world. It is the only world language that can be useful throughout the world as well as in the U.S. and is the only language other than English spoken on 5 continents. French is spoken by our largest trading partner (Canada). Trade between France and the U.S. increased by 75% in recent years. The French are world leaders in business, medical research, technology, the arts and aerospace. The knowledge of French offers the student an edge in the increasingly competitive world market. SAT scores improve with French acquisition. France is the world's major tourist destination with 75 million tourists per year as well as maintaining the position of Europe's foremost investor abroad. A country of high technology (TGV is the fastest train in the world); France plays a premier role in the global business community. French is one of the 2 official languages of the Olympics, the United Nations, and French speaking Africa represents an area larger than the U.S.A. Over 20,000 English words have their origins in French. Employment opportunities are available in international business, international agencies, teaching, tourism, hospitality, diplomatic service, and research institutes and translating. French is the lingua franca of culture, including art, cuisine, dance and fashion.

The Value of Studying German

If you are planning for any profession or career that might involve the European context, German is an excellent language to learn. In Europe, more people speak German as their native language (approximately 100 million) than English, French, Italian, or Spanish. In Eastern Europe, German ranks even before English as the major second language. Knowing German will greatly enhance your career opportunities in international business, Foreign Service, publishing and journalism, commerce and industry, teaching and scholarship and engineering. Germany lays a

central role in the European Union and is a major economic and political power. German has been and remains an international language in many disciplines, including philosophy, social sciences, physics, engineering, and medicine, music, and art history. Whatever you decide to major in, many important texts relevant to your field are to be found only in German. Knowing German most definitely improves job prospects, as well. Almost one thousand American companies do business with Germany, and over one thousand companies based in German-speaking countries have subsidiaries in the U.S. In all these firms there is a need for workers with an understanding of both languages and of the differences between the two cultures.

Knowledge of German not only helps one get a job, but often is a significant factor in advancement within a company. In several high-tech companies German is the language named as the world language they would most like job applicants to know. German is the language of many great thinkers, artists, and scientists. Whether studying philosophy, mathematics, music, history, theology, engineering, or literature these fields will be greatly enhanced by a knowledge of German.

The Value of Studying Latin

The study of Latin prepares students for the SAT's and provides them with a deeper understanding of English grammar. Exposure to Latin will significantly improve the student's vocabulary as approximately 67% of all English words have their origin in the Latin language. In addition to this a strong background in Classics is beneficial in the study of medicine. Understanding many of the bedrock concepts of our legal system is simplified by a knowledge of Latin. Latin will ultimately increase linguistic abilities as well as provide a deeper understanding of terminology found in science, mathematics, and music. Latin is the history, culture and people which gave birth to Western Civilization as we know it. The tremendous value of Latin as our students seek to learn about the contemporary cultures of the world and their history will be to cultivate the global and democratic outlook which enables them to become productive citizens in the twenty-first century.

The Value of Studying Spanish

500 million people across the world speak Spanish. It is the 3rd most spoken language worldwide. It is spoken natively by approximately 350 million people. The United States is now the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world. The Hispanic population in the U.S. has grown by 60% in one decade. We recognize the extraordinary role that Spanish plays in every area of life in Florida, California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Tennessee, Arizona, New Mexico, etc. Spanish is becoming of greater importance in Europe as well. It is the official language of the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations. Mastery of Spanish will increase the number of possibilities in the job market and permit an individual to move into geographical areas where English is not spoken. A knowledge of Spanish significantly increases the possibility to interact with other people in business, friendship and travel. Spanish is expected to soon be the first language of 50% of the population of the United States. Due to the economic growth of Latin American countries, they are important trading partners. Mastery of Spanish clearly offers multiple benefits in the business and social world.