

Portuguese

Portuguese is the language of Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, and several other countries in Africa. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers an undergraduate Portuguese major designed to provide students a strong foundation in the language, introduce them to the study of literary works in Portuguese, and help them develop an informed awareness of the cultures of Portuguese-speaking nations.

The Portuguese program at Ohio State has grown consistently in the last four years and now boasts enrollment numbers that are among the largest in undergraduate Portuguese programs in the United States.

Students in the Portuguese major will take courses in language, literature, and culture. One of the principal goals of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is to help students attain the highest possible level of language proficiency.

Pursuing Portuguese at Ohio State

Most students in the Portuguese program will not have previous training in the language—they will begin studying Portuguese at Ohio State. Students with high school background in Spanish are especially well positioned to advance quickly in Portuguese.

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Portuguese within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor for Department of Spanish and Portuguese and an Arts and Sciences Advising counselor.

Students are encouraged to consult with the departmental advisors often during their studies. This helps them remain on track throughout the program of study. Most intermediate and advanced language courses are offered at least once per academic year.

The key to successfully completing major study in another language is careful and efficient course selection with a language advisor.

It is important that students majoring in Portuguese be willing to develop a deep commitment to the cultures and ways of life they are studying. The study of Portuguese is not only a technical field producing skills. It is also an immersion into the worlds of other peoples, with the true challenge of developing mutual understanding and respect.

Portuguese Requirements

Prerequisite requirements include either Portuguese 101 (Elementary Portuguese I) through 104 (Intermediate Portuguese II) or 101.51 through 104.51 (Individualized Instruction). Students proficient in Spanish may begin with Portuguese 501 and 502 (Portuguese for Spanish Speakers), and move more quickly into major-level course work.

The Portuguese major requires at least 50 credit hours:

- a minimum of 15 credit hours in advanced language and linguistics, including Portuguese 401: Advanced Portuguese Grammar
- a minimum of 25 credit hours in literature and culture, including Portuguese 450: Introduction to the Study of Literatures and Cultures
- a minimum of 10 credit hours in the electives list or from the advanced language/linguistics or literature and culture lists

Co-Curricular Opportunities

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese highly recommends that students take advantage of several study abroad programs that are sponsored by the department in Portugal, Brazil, and other countries. These programs provide students greater exposure to the language, literatures, and cultures of Portuguese-speaking nations.

Several study abroad programs are offered in Brazil. The department collaborates with other Ohio State departments, the Office of International Affairs, and other universities to further expand opportunities in Portugal and Brazil, and students are encouraged to help with this expansion. The department works actively with students interested in scholarships, fellowships, and other funding opportunities offered at Ohio State to study abroad.

For more information, check these web sites:

Spanish and Portuguese: sppo.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Portuguese. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Portuguese. Consult the departmental web site, sppo.osu.edu, for details on specific courses.

Freshman Year:

Elementary Portuguese I and II*	10
Intermediate Portuguese I	5
GEC courses	30
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Intermediate Portuguese II	5
Advanced Portuguese Grammar	5
Portuguese Reading and Listening	5
Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture	5
GEC courses	25
Electives	5
Total hours	45

Junior Year:

The Portuguese Language	5
Portuguese Conversation and Composition	5
Literature from Romanticism to the Present	5
GEC courses	23
Electives	5
Total hours	48

Senior Year:

Study at a Foreign Institution	10
Cultural Expressions of Portugal and Lusophone Africa	5
Studies in Literature and Culture of the Portuguese-Speaking World	5
GEC courses	25
Electives	5
Total hours	50

* This curriculum sample assumes placement in Portuguese 101. Students may place at different levels. The departmental academic advisor will facilitate proper placement and selection of courses that best fit student needs.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs are invited to apply upon admission to the university. For more information about these opportunities, refer to the Honors and Scholars web site at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Portuguese

Portuguese is a major world language, but its importance is insufficiently recognized in the United States. For example, half of all U.S. businesses in Latin America are located in Brazil. The knowledge of a second language is usually a key to acquiring strong writing skills. Employment in almost any field is open to a language major, especially in companies that do business with overseas clients. This can range from the banking industry to public relations to computer programming. Knowledge of a second language is also helpful in health care and social work. Federal, state, and local governments are additional areas where having a second language can be beneficial. Additionally, the ability to do research and translation in another language opens doors to careers.

Ohio State graduates with Portuguese degrees have chosen jobs such as customer service representative with Quest International, loan originator with Huntington Bancshares, Inc., and trade specialist with the Ohio Department of Development.

Students can explore potential careers for majors in a foreign language in the university's Arts and Sciences Career Services Office (see below).

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection and the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment. More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Portuguese program, please visit sppo.osu.edu.

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