

CAREERS FOR

Languages

MAJORS

To learn a new language is not only to gain a new skill, but to open a door into a new way of seeing the world. Languages majors provide students with foundational written and spoken proficiency as well as a thorough study of the peoples, cultures and histories of the language. [Study abroad programs](#) form a key part of language studies, allowing students to get intensive practice and real-world experience. Several languages majors are available at UNM, each with a distinctive history and cultural context. Because students in these majors often have similar career interests, we have grouped them together for the purposes of this guide. Please see our separate guide for Signed Language Interpreting. Languages majors offered at UNM include:

- [Languages](#) (students select concentrations in two languages)
- [French](#)
- [German](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Spanish](#)

UNM offers the opportunity to study other languages as a minor or concentration, including:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Classical Greek](#)
- [Italian](#)
- [Japanese](#)
- [Latin](#)
- [Navajo \(Diné\)](#)

Language skills are needed in many fields, from education and cultural preservation to business and diplomacy. Some language skills are especially relevant in New Mexico, with our rich linguistic heritage, vibrant immigrant communities, and large population of Spanish speakers and speakers of Indigenous languages. Graduates often pursue careers in education, cultural affairs, international affairs, national security and business.

Industries & Occupations

Communication and Cultural Affairs

- Interpreter, translator, writer, editor, curator, researcher, cultural preservation

Government, Law and Policy

- Foreign affairs, diplomacy, national security, intelligence, international aid,

humanitarian relief, NGOs, economic development, law,* elected office, public policy, public administration, policy analysis, advocacy

K-12 and Higher Education

- English as a second language teacher, foreign language teacher,* elementary school teacher,* secondary school teacher,* school administration,* instructional coordinator, university faculty,* student services, multicultural student programming, study abroad adviser

Nonprofit and Social Services

- Counselor,* social worker,* youth advocate, case worker, community organizer, religious work, program management, program evaluation

International Business

- Management, human resources, hospitality, translation services, entrepreneurship, administration, marketing

*Requires a license or graduate degree

Graduate School & Other Training

No further training beyond a bachelor's degree is required to become an interpreter or translator, though a [certification](#) is helpful to demonstrate your skills. Certifications may be required for specialized services, like court and medical interpretation. Some graduates continue with graduate study in their chosen language. Others pursue training to get the licensure required for certain professions, like law, teaching and social work. Graduates who wish to teach public school may pursue [alternative teacher licensure](#). A license is usually not required for other kinds of teaching, like teaching English in another country, teaching English to adults in the community, or one-on-one language tutoring. A [Teaching English as a Foreign Language \(TEFL\)](#) certification is helpful, however, and may be required by some employers.

Selected Employment & Internship Opportunities

Federal and state government, various departments including:

- [US Department of State](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)
- [Central Intelligence Agency](#)
- [New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs](#)

Community and cultural organizations, including:

- [Instituto Cervantes Albuquerque](#)
- [New Mexico Asian Family Center](#)
- [National Hispanic Cultural Center](#)

Teaching English abroad programs, including:

- [Cultural Ambassadors Program Spain](#)
- [English Opens Doors Program Chile](#)

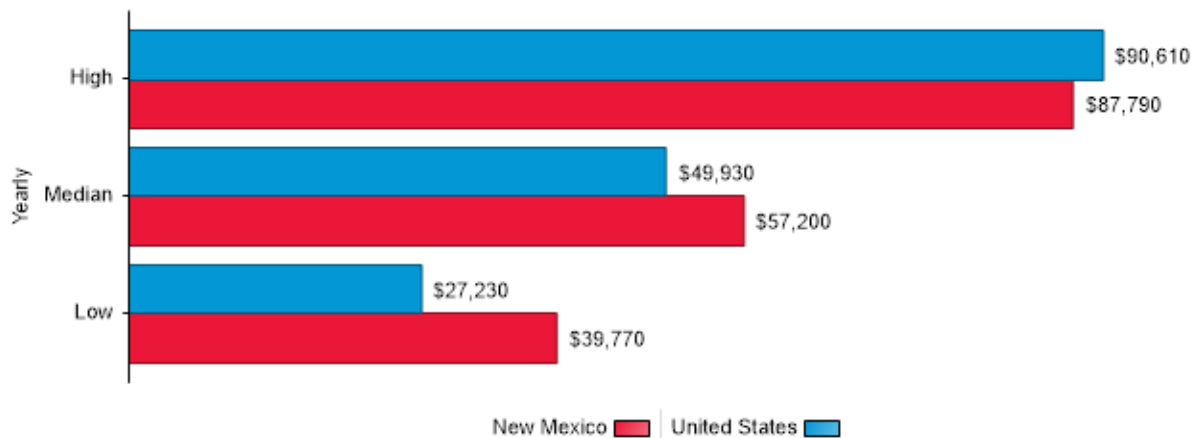
- [English Program in Korea \(EPIK\)](#)
- [Japanese and Exchange Teaching \(JET\) Program](#)

National service programs, including:

- [Peace Corps](#)
- [AmeriCorps](#)

Salary Information

Yearly Wages for [Interpreters and Translators](#)



Tips

- [Study abroad!](#) Immersing yourself in a language and culture is the most effective way to develop your language capacity.
- The [CAPS Writing and Language Center](#) and [Language Learning Center](#) provide tutoring and conversation groups for all languages offered at UNM. As your skills improve, consider becoming a language tutor yourself!
- If you are interested in translation and interpretation, consider becoming a [Certified Translator](#) to demonstrate your skills.
- Interested in international affairs? Students interested in international aid and diplomacy would benefit from UNM's [Peace Corps Prep Program](#). Students interested in national security would benefit from UNM's [National Security and Strategic Analysis Program](#).
- Did you know that UNM Career Services hosts a [Diplomat in Residence](#)? A Foreign Service Officer is available right here on campus to discuss careers, internships and other opportunities with the US Department of State. Call or visit Career Services for more information.

Learn More

UNM Departments and Programs

- [Education Abroad](#)
- [Foreign Languages and Literatures](#)
- [International Studies Institute](#)

- [Language Learning Center](#)
- [Linguistics](#)
- [Spanish and Portuguese](#)
- [Writing and Language Center](#)

Professional Associations: Teaching

- [American Association of Teachers of Arabic](#)
- [American Association of Teachers of French](#)
- [American Association of Teachers of German](#)
- [American Association of Teachers of Italian](#)
- [American Association of Teachers of Japanese](#)
- [American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese](#)
- [American Classical League](#)
- [American Council of Teachers of Russian](#)
- [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)
- [Chinese Language Teachers Association USA](#)
- [Diné Language Teachers Association](#)
- [Teaching English as a Foreign Language](#)
- [Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages International](#)

Professional Associations: Translation and Interpretation

- [American Translators Association](#)
- [International Medical Interpreters Association](#)
- [National Association for Interpretation](#)
- [National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators](#)
- [National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters](#)
- [National Council on Interpreting in Health Care](#)
- [New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association](#)

Resources

- [New Mexico Center for Language Access](#)
- [TEFL/TESOL Certification](#)
- [ATA Translator Certification](#)
- [Handshake](#)
- [O*NET](#)
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
- [Student Activities Center](#)
- [Buzzfile Employers by Major](#)

Questions?

Visit UNM Career Services!

Walk-in hours Monday – Friday, 11am – 1pm

Or call 277-2531 to schedule an appointment