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 of 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 freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Portuguese within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor for Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Students are encouraged to consult with the departmental advisors often during their studies. This helps them remain on track throughout the program of study.

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

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 1101.01 (Portuguese I) through 1103.01 (Portuguese III) or 1101.51 through 1103.51 (Individualized Instruction). Students proficient in Spanish may begin with Portuguese 5501 and 5502 (Portuguese for Spanish Speakers), and move more quickly into major-level course work.

The Portuguese major requires at least 30 credit hours:

- a minimum of 9 credit hours in advanced language and linguistics, including Portuguese 3401: Advanced Portuguese Grammar
- a minimum of 15 credit hours in literature and culture, including Portuguese 3450: Introduction to the Study of Literatures and Cultures
- a minimum of 6 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 sponsored by the department in Portugal or Brazil. 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. 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 websites:

Spanish and Portuguese: sppo.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
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. For more information, visit 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 multiple 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.

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 General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Portuguese. Consult the departmental website, sppo.osu.edu, for details on specific courses.

Freshman Year:
Survey 1
Freshman Seminar 1
Portuguese I* 4
Portuguese II 4
GE courses 23
Total hours 33

Sophomore Year:
Portuguese III 4
Advanced Portuguese Grammar 3
Portuguese Reading and Listening 3
Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture 3
GE courses 18
Total hours 31

Junior Year:
The Portuguese Language 3
Portuguese Conversation and Composition 3
Literature from Romanticism to the Present 3
GE courses 15
Elective course 3
Total hours 27

Senior Year:
Study at a Foreign Institution 6
Cultural Expressions of Portugal and Lusophone Africa 3
Studies in Literature and Culture of the Portuguese-Speaking World 3
GE courses 15
Elective course 3
Total hours 30

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

Revised December 2013. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the Portuguese program, please visit sppo.osu.edu.

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