

POLISH, BA

Polish is the most commonly spoken Slavic language of the European Union and the second largest Slavic language in the world, with over 50 million users across the globe. Poland has a unique and vibrant culture shaped by a millennium of artistic and intellectual innovation and struggles for political, social, and cultural independence. The country survived two world wars and half a century of communist rule to emerge as a regional leader in East-Central Europe, the fastest-growing economy in the European Union, and home to one of the most dynamic cultural scenes in the world. It is also a key NATO and U.S. ally in Europe. Polish diaspora is among the world's largest, with major concentrations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

The Polish major offers courses in the Polish language, literature, culture, politics, and one of the most intricate, fascinating histories in Europe, providing the knowledge and skills for successful careers in business, politics, diplomacy, arts, translation, international law, environmental science, journalism, national security, tourism, and cultural services.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers .
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.
L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison
-----------------	--

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The Polish major requires study of the Polish language, Polish literature in translation, Polish literature in the original language, as well as culture and area studies, as detailed below:

Code	Title	Credits
Polish Language (complete two courses):		6
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	
Polish Literature and Culture (complete both):		
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 215	Love and Death: Introduction to Polish Literature & Culture	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
Additional Course in Polish Language or Literature/ Culture (complete one):		3
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	
SLAVIC 231	History and Ethics on Film: Polish Cinema ¹	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 259	Adventure in Literature and Film	
Polish Literature and Culture Area Studies from:		6
SLAVIC 231	History and Ethics on Film: Polish Cinema ¹	
SLAVIC 242	Literatures and Cultures of Eastern Europe	
SLAVIC 246	Escaping Utopia: Cultures after Communism	
SLAVIC 245	Topics in Slavic Literatures	
SLAVIC/GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 254	Eastern Europe: An Interdisciplinary Survey	
SLAVIC 285	Slavic Culture in Context: An Honors Course	
SLAVIC 299	Directed Study	
SLAVIC 307	Study Abroad in Poland	
SLAVIC 308	Polish Culture and Area Studies on Study Abroad	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
SLAVIC/ FOLKLORE 444	Slavic and East European Folklore	

SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
SLAVIC 470	History of Polish Literature until 1863	
SLAVIC 472	History of Polish Literature after 1863	
HISTORY 270	Eastern Europe since 1900	
LITTRANS 207	Slavic Science Fiction through Literature and Film	
LITTRANS 218	Polish Literature in Translation: Late 19th and 20th Centuries	
LITTRANS 229	Representation of the Jew in Eastern European Cultures	
LITTRANS 241	Literatures and Cultures of Eastern Europe	
LITTRANS 247	Topics in Slavic Literatures in Translation	
LITTRANS/ SLAVIC 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
LITTRANS/ SLAVIC 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
LITTRANS 473	Polish Literature (in Translation) since 1863	
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	
POLI SCI 659	Politics and Society: Contemporary Eastern Europe	
Total Credits		21

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all major courses
- 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence
- 15 credits in the major taken on the UW–Madison campus

Upper-Level Courses in the Major:

Code	Title	Credits
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC 307	Study Abroad in Poland	1-4
SLAVIC 308	Polish Culture and Area Studies on Study Abroad	1-4
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
SLAVIC/ FOLKLORE 444	Slavic and East European Folklore	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3-4

POLI SCI 659	Politics and Society: Contemporary Eastern Europe	3-4
--------------	---	-----

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all SLAVIC courses and all courses counting in the major
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in SLAVIC 681 and SLAVIC 682, for a total of 6 credits
- 9 credits from the following list:

Code	Title	Credits
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3

FOOTNOTES

¹ SLAVIC 231 may only count within one requirement for the major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Polish language proficiency) Develop speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills and integrate these skills to communicate in Polish in a variety of social situations.
2. Develop and apply writing skills and oral communication skills appropriate to liberal arts education in the context of Slavic studies.
3. Develop and apply critical thinking skills inherent in the liberal arts tradition in the context of Slavic studies.
4. Analyze and interpret works of literature in themselves and in the context of specific historical and cultural conditions.
5. Demonstrate insight into Polish culture and civilization and apply this knowledge across disciplines such as history, political science, the arts, geography, business, economics, sociology, the sciences, gender studies, philosophy, law, folklore.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 111	4 SLAVIC 112	4
Communication A	3 GERMAN 267	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning A	3-4 Social Science Breadth	4
Social Science Breadth	4 Biological Science Breadth	3
14		14

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 207	4 SLAVIC 208	4
GNS/FOLKLORE 200 (Comm B)	3 SLAVIC/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI 254	4
Physical Science Breadth	3 INTER-LS 210	1
Quantitative Reasoning B	3 Social Science Breadth	4
Elective	3 Elective	3
16		16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 277	3 SLAVIC 278	3
SLAVIC/LITTRANS 215	3 SLAVIC/LITTRANS 361	3

Science Breadth	3 Polish Area Studies Course	3
Electives	6 Science Breadth Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 331	3 SLAVIC 332	3
Polish Area Studies course	3 Polish Area Studies course	3
Electives	9 Electives	9
	15	15

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please follow the process described on the German, Nordic, and Slavic+ website (https://gns.wisc.edu/undergraduate_majors/).

Any student with previous experience with the Polish language is required to take a placement test. These tests may admit a student to a more advanced course, but give no credit toward graduation. However, retroactive credits can be granted in recognition of previous language study. L&S Retro Credit Policy (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/page.php?id=23736>). The Placement Advisor for Polish is Krzysztof Borowski. Please contact the undergraduate advisor to request placement.

For other undergraduate concerns, please contact our undergraduate coordinator Joanna Schuth (jschuth@wisc.edu).

For advising on careers related to languages, talk with Lydia Odegard (lodegard@wisc.edu), Language Directions Specialist in the Language Institute.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students