

RUSSIAN, BA

Russian is designated a critical language by the United States government. Russian is the seventh-most spoken language in the world and is among the six official languages of the United Nations. Russian speakers live not only in Russia, but in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, including the Baltic states, and in Russian-speaking diasporas in the United States and throughout the world. Because Russian is so widely spoken in many countries throughout the world, it is an in-demand critical language for careers including government service, non-governmental organizations, science and scholarship, and some business sectors.

Students in the Russian major not only learn the Russian language but read Russian literature in both Russian and English and become familiar with Russian film and visual arts, theater and performing arts, and music.

The Russian major is designed to meet the needs of students who begin to study the language in college as well as those who began to study the language in high school or who grew up speaking or hearing Russian at home.

Russian majors are able to speak Russian in everyday and some work situations, read and listen to Russian-language news and media, and write for daily, academic, and some professional purposes. In addition, Russian majors gain an appreciation and a deeper understanding of the variety of places and cultures in which Russian is spoken, and of politics and foreign policy, history, and world-renowned literary and artistic traditions.

HOW TO GET IN

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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.
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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.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
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UW–Madison Experience • 30 credits in residence, overall; and
• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work • 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

Code	Title	Credits
Russian Language:		15

SLAVIC 275 & SLAVIC 276	Third Year Russian I and Third Year Russian II	
SLAVIC 315	Russian Language and Culture I	
SLAVIC 316	Russian Language and Culture II	
SLAVIC 321	Fourth Year Russian I	

Foundations in Russian Literature & Culture (complete three distinct courses):

Literature Survey (complete one): 4

LITTRANS 203	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation I	
or LITTRANS 20	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation II	

Literature & Culture (complete two): 6

LITTRANS 201	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation I	
or LITTRANS 20	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation I	
LITTRANS 202	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation II	
or LITTRANS 20	Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation II	

LITTRANS 233	Russian Life and Culture Through Literature and Art (to 1917)	
LITTRANS 234	Soviet Life and Culture Through Literature and Art (from 1917)	

Capstone

SLAVIC 465	Advanced Readings in Russian Literature & Culture	3
or SLAVIC 560	Capstone Seminar in Russian Literature and Culture	

Electives

Intermediate or Advanced Elective (complete one): 3

SLAVIC 309	Russian Area Studies on Study Abroad	
SLAVIC 310	Topics in Russian: Study Abroad	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 366	Intermediate Special Topics in Russian Literature & Culture	
SLAVIC 433	History of Russian Culture	

SLAVIC 434	Contemporary Russian Culture	
SLAVIC/ FOLKLORE 444	Slavic and East European Folklore	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
SLAVIC 555	Advanced Russian Listening & Speaking	
LITTRANS/ GEN&WS 205	Women in Russian Literature in Translation	
LITTRANS 220	Chekhov: The Drama of Modern Life	
LITTRANS 221	Russia's Greatest Enigma: Nikolai Gogol	
LITTRANS 222	Dostoevsky in Translation	
LITTRANS/ ENGL 223	Vladimir Nabokov: Russian and American Writings	
LITTRANS 224	Tolstoy in Translation	
LITTRANS/ THEATRE 423	In Translation: Slavic Drama in Context	

Additional Elective (complete one): 3

Any Intermediate or Advanced-level course from the list above, or:

SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 238	Literature and Revolution	
SLAVIC 239	Performance and Power	
SLAVIC 243	Contemporary Russia: History, Politics, and Culture	
SLAVIC/ GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 253	Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 266	Elementary Special Topics in Russian Literature & Culture	
LITTRANS 207	Slavic Science Fiction through Literature and Film	

Total Credits 34

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

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

UPPER-LEVEL COURSES IN THE MAJOR

The following courses are upper-level in the Russian major:

Code	Title	Credits
SLAVIC 275	Third Year Russian I	
SLAVIC 276	Third Year Russian II	
SLAVIC 309	Russian Area Studies on Study Abroad	
SLAVIC 310	Topics in Russian: Study Abroad	
SLAVIC 315	Russian Language and Culture I	
SLAVIC 316	Russian Language and Culture II	
SLAVIC 321	Fourth Year Russian I	
SLAVIC 322	Fourth Year Russian II	

SLAVIC/ FOLKLORE 444	Slavic and East European Folklore
SLAVIC 465	Advanced Readings in Russian Literature & Culture
SLAVIC 555	Advanced Russian Listening & Speaking
SLAVIC 560	Capstone Seminar in Russian Literature and Culture
SLAVIC 681	Senior Honors Thesis
SLAVIC 682	Senior Honors Thesis
SLAVIC 699	Directed Study
LITTRANS/ GEN&WS 205	Women in Russian Literature in Translation
LITTRANS 220	Chekhov: The Drama of Modern Life
LITTRANS 221	Russia's Greatest Enigma: Nikolai Gogol
LITTRANS 222	Dostoevsky in Translation
LITTRANS/ ENGL 223	Vladimir Nabokov: Russian and American Writings
LITTRANS 224	Tolstoy in Translation

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Russian advisor.

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 3.500 GPA in all courses in the major
- Complete 18 credits in the major taken for Honors, taken on campus, with grades of B or better in the following:
 - SLAVIC 275, SLAVIC 276, SLAVIC 315, SLAVIC 316, SLAVIC 321 and SLAVIC 465 or SLAVIC 560
- Complete a Senior Thesis in SLAVIC 681 and SLAVIC 682 for at least 6 credits

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

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1. (Russian language proficiency) Develop speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills and integrate these skills to communicate in Russian 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 Russian 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

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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 101	4 SLAVIC 102	4
LITTRANS 233 or 234	3 LITTRANS 234	3
Communication A	3 Quantitative Reasoning A	3
Science Breadth	3 Social Science Breadth	3
	Elective	3
	13	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 203	4 SLAVIC 204	4
INTER-LS 210	1 LITTRANS 202 or 204 (204 meets Comm B requirement)	3
LITTRANS 201 or 203 (203 meets Comm B requirement)	3 LITTRANS/GERMAN/ JEWISH 279 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement)	3
Quantitative Reasoning B	3 1/A COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if BS)	4
Biological Science Breadth	3	
	14	14

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 275 (meets Humanities requirement)	3 SLAVIC 276 (meets Humanities requirement)	3
SLAVIC 315	3 SLAVIC 316	3
Physical Science Breadth	3 Science Breadth	3
Electives	5 Social Science Breadth Electives	3
		6
	14	18

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SLAVIC 321	3 Russian Capstone	3
Russian Elective	3 Russian Elective	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Social Science Breadth	3
Electives	7 Electives	6
	16	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 Russian is Anna Tumarkin. Please contact the undergraduate advisor to request placement.

[Students might also want to consider the Russian Flagship Program, a federally funded intensive language-learning program open to students of all majors. The Flagship Program is a separate application and students can complete it in addition to the Russian major or may complete it alongside another major entirely.](#)

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