FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For those of you obtaining a bachelor of arts at Northern Illinois University, you have a Foreign Language Requirement. MPTSS met with the Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures Dr. Katharina Barbe to help you understand requirements and become more knowledgeable about what NIU has to offer. NIU has an excellent language department with 15 different language selections. The requirements vary depending on language, most are 12-credit hours which can be completed in two years or one year and a summer. Other languages including some Southeast Asian languages have a 10-credit hour requirement that can be reached in a year. This is important to consider if you decided to change from a B.S. to a B.A. in your senior year, because you will then have a language requirement when you didn’t before.

There are also ways to test out of your language requirement. Those who transfer or have taken language AP classes are capable of receiving credit transfers at a grading scale of 12 credit hours for a five score, nine credit hours for scoring four, and six credit hours for scoring three. Take note this must be in one and the same language. You cannot take French in high school and then count it towards classes in German.

You can also test out of language classes if you are bilingual. Check out the Celebrate Bilingualism page online and read more about qualifications. If you tested out of a language, you can easily continue your education and achieve a minor with only 15-20 more credit hours. Languages are excellent for your resume. Dr. Barbe states employers first look at how you present yourself and then look at your transcripts, so it is very important to include your language experience when you write your cover letters and resume.

Continued on page 2
Advice for choosing a language, you should make your decision based on interest, however, there are economic benefits for learning certain languages. Here is a great article from the Economist to read when considering the benefits of learning a new language.

Also consider study abroad! Dr. Barbe recommends taking a few classes in your chosen language before you decide to go abroad, it will help you understand the culture and develop your language skills. This past year the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures awarded around $15,000 for study abroad scholarships. One scholarship even went unclaimed because no one applied. One opportunity for a blog scholarship offers up to $1,000 to write a bilingual blog, while being assisted by your professor to insure it is accurate and edited properly. That’s about one free flight worth of scholarship! Other scholarships are awarded to Educator Licensure students. All you have to do is apply!

Some campus resources include the Language Learning Center where you can practice conversing, they also offer online testing and free tutor services. The Foreign Language Residency Program is located in Stevenson North. They have dinner together four nights a week and have other activities once a week. This is great for students who want to maintain their language skills. You do not have to be in a language class to attend. There are also great clubs to join. Last but not least, don’t forget to take advantage of professor’s office hours. Everyone wants to help you succeed!

### Accumulated language bonuses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Economist

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**THE FISH HOOK**

Each month Assistant Director Jeff Salmon shares insights and thoughts with Post-Trads.

As I sit down to write, we are eight weeks into the semester with eight weeks to go. I always feel the back half of the semester goes quicker with Halloween and the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Midterms may be top of mind to many students, but I wanted to remind folks of another annual staple of the academic semester.

Starting the week of November 6, registration for Spring 2018 courses begins. It’s very important to see your advisor prior to your registration. They can help you plan your coursework and will let you know the specific date you can register.

NIU’s office of Records and Registration provides an outline of registration dates, but it can be helpful to know exactly how many credits you have from your advisor.

If you have any questions, our office is here to help!
The NIU College of Business Experiential Learning Center (ELC) connects teams of the very best students with accomplished executives over the course of a 16-week collaboration. AMITAally is a partnership between the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, the College of Business, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and AMITA Health.

AMITA Health is a faith-based health system and its innovation team believes that “Aging well” is one of the most important issues of our time. AMITAally is a housing partnership program for students and older adults, presenting an answer to housing and health issues faced in the daily lives of older adults.

The program promotes an intergenerational living situation, with college students living for free with older adults to help them manage daily activities and living. AMITAally is a mutually beneficial program, providing the opportunity for older adults to “age well” and incorporate experiential learning along with free housing for students. By the end of the semester, we plan on executing a pilot for AMITAally in order to foreshadow the intergenerational living program of the future.

If you are interested in helping with the project contact NIU senior Daniel Pineda.

FINALS ARE COMING

There is no doubt that the holiday season is forthcoming. Mother Nature has warned us with her dropping temperatures. However, not only are we facing colder and colder temperatures, our grades are also at stake. The week of finals falls less than two weeks after Thanksgiving. As much as it is important to spend quality time with family and friends, preparing for the future ahead is necessary. Begin mapping out your plans to study for finals weeks beforehand. Here are some helpful tips and resources to help you get ready for your finals push.

• Check out “What is my GPA?” This NIU resource helps you determine your semester, cumulative, and target grade point averages. Knowing your anticipated grades ahead of time provides motivation to study for finals.

• Create a study planner for the Thanksgiving break! Whether you use a spreadsheet, planner or Google Docs, the best option is to map your designated blocks of time in a planner so you can prioritize and keep up with your study needs.

• Locate where you can study besides the Founders Library on campus. NIU has plenty of study options! Gabel Learning Center, MPTSS Student Lounge, Barsema Hall, Faraday Library, Wirtz Hall and along Reavis Hall stairwell are good options for study locations. In addition, seek out lounge and designated study areas located within your department of study.

SARAH’S SPOTLIGHT

Each month, Student Intern Sarah Derylo highlights things to do and see in the Chicagoland area.

You know what I’m really looking forward to? Seeing everything decorated with Christmas lights. It always makes me really happy and it really lights up my life.

Starting November 17, see trees in a different light as the Morton Arboretum celebrates the power of coming together to lift our spirits during the crisp, long nights of winter! Illumination is an award-winning, one-mile outdoor walking tour on a paved path winding through 50 acres of The Morton Arboretum’s celebrated tree collections. Seating, warming/concession tents and fire pits are available along the route. So are countless photo opportunities. It is an ideal way to experience the winter woods brought to life with innovative lights, projections and music.

Tickets are $22 for adults during the weekend and $18 during the week. Tickets should be purchased ahead of time and are purchased for certain timeslots.

Additionally, as the holidays get closer, several towns and neighborhoods host Christmas Light Walks for free, so be sure to see if there are any in your area and feel free to check them out. I recommend wearing many layers and bringing thermos of hot chocolate.
**Meet Huskie Staff Member: Sandy López**

Sandy López is the Assistant to the Director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies. She graduated from NIU as a first-generation student and is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Administration and Foundations from Illinois State University. López has worked in education her entire career but wanted to work more directly with students. She loves what she does and it shows in the commitment and dedication she shows to her students.

The first piece of advice López would give to students is to get involved, whether it be in a cultural center, academic or social group, just find something that interests you and get involved. Many students try and get involved in many things, but it is important to stress quality over quantity and only get involved in the number of activities you feel you can do really well. It is also important to connect to people and offices that can provide you with resources. Peer mentors are excellent sources, make sure to take advantage of them!

Second, she encourages students to visit her office. López believes the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies encourages students to find their identities and gives students agency and knowledge about what they can accomplish as individuals, which helps students persist at NIU.

**Fun Facts:**

- López started her NIU journey as an undergraduate student majoring in Deaf Education. She is still at NIU supporting students 25 years later.
- She has a passion for live music, making sure to attend two music festivals each year.
- She’s training to run the Disney World Half-Marathon.

**Meet Huskie Post-Traditional Student: Karina Alcantara**

Karina Alcantara is junior psychology major with a minor in Spanish. Her hometown is Elburn, Ill., and she has commuted to NIU since her freshman year. She chose psychology as a major because there is a disparity in the field. Alcantara stated that Latinxs make up one percent of field and there is a need for more research on Latinx populations. Alcantara likes NIU because there are always people to help you and there is a place you belong. Her favorite spaces are the commuter lounge of the MPTSS office and the Latino Center. She has had good experiences with NIU professors. When Alcantara had a concern or question, her professors have been approachable and understanding.

Her tips to new students are to take the time to explore the campus and be open to trying new things. As a commuter, she has a limited time to explore between commuting and classwork. However, she encourages you to take the time to explore. Also, become friends with other commuters if you’re a commuter too! Finally, one of the best opportunities she has had is the opportunity to research with a professor. Alcantara is taking a three-credit course from her major where she assists with research and spends nine hours a week in the lab. The course is flexible and a good opportunity for students. Alcantara’s expected graduation date is May 2019. After she graduates from NIU, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in clinical psychology and serve the Latinx population.

**Fun Fact:** Karina has had plastic surgery twice for medical purposes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership 101 Workshop</strong></td>
<td>November 6, 1-2 p.m.</td>
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<td>HSC, Heritage Room</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2018 Spring Semester Registration Begins</strong></td>
<td>November 6</td>
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<td><strong>MPTSS State Jobs Event</strong></td>
<td>November 7, 10-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>HSC, University Suite</td>
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<td><strong>Facts &amp; Snacks: Internships</strong></td>
<td>November 7, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
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<td>CLB, Room 100</td>
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<td><strong>Veterans Job Fair</strong></td>
<td>November 8, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>HSC, Capitol Room</td>
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<td><strong>Jazz Combo Fest</strong></td>
<td>November 10, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Music Building Recital Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Diversity Dialogue Speaker Series</strong></td>
<td>November 14, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>HSC, Sandburg Auditorium</td>
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<td><strong>Wind Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>November 16, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Music Building Boutell Memorial Concert Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Thanksgiving Recess</strong></td>
<td>November 22-24</td>
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<td><strong>Facts &amp; Snacks: Campus Engagement</strong></td>
<td>November 28, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.</td>
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<td>CLB, Room 100</td>
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<td><strong>JOBS Plus Event: Leaders as Runners</strong></td>
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