

Information on Foreign Languages
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Statistical information

Languages spoken in California (U.S. 2000 Census Data):

Spoken at home:

English 60%

Languages other than English 39%

Approximate numbers:

English: 19,000,000

Spanish: 8,000,000

Chinese, Tagalog: 500,000+

Vietnamese, Korean: 300,000--400,000

Armenian, Japanese, Persian, German, French, Russian, Other Pacific languages, Other Indic languages, Arabic: 100,000--155,000

Languages spoken by Ventura County residents:

English 67%

Spanish 26%

Tagalog 1.5%

German 0.5%

Chinese 0.5%

Vietnamese, Japanese, French, 0.4%

Farsi, Korean 0.3%

(*Ventura County Star* 3/11/05)

Most popular languages taught in U.S. public schools, in order:

Spanish

French

German

Latin

Italian

Japanese

Russian

Most popular languages taught in U.S. colleges and universities, in order:

*Spanish (Minor; BA in Fall 2005)

French

German

*ASL (101 and 102)

*currently offered at CSUCI

Proposed:

Language requirement for B.A. programs:

A CSUCI exit/graduation requirement based on a determined proficiency level (equivalent to 3rd or 4th semester) for all B.A. programs. Heritage speakers could test out of their respective language. This language requirement would help us better address the CSUCI Mission Statement: "...graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives;" and make it fiscally possible and prudent to offer lower-division courses in various languages currently offered (Spanish, ASL): Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, etc. As suggested by a committee member, we would try to include languages in relevant area programs (e.g., Chinese or Japanese for Asian Pacific Studies).

By 2009:

Offer a B.A. in one of the above-mentioned languages (Arabic? Chinese?)

By 2010:

Offer a B.A. in French, in light of it being the 2nd most-taught language in public schools AND it being a language spoken in many parts of the world.

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By 2008:

Spanish is by far the most popular language, reflecting increasing demographics in the county, the state, and the U.S. With the BA in Spanish coming on board in Fall 2005, there will be home-grown interest in a MA in Spanish for those interested in teaching (in connection with the future Single Subject Spanish credential) or graduate study.