

**CWU WORLD LANGUAGES
2015 Alumni Survey Responses**

13 out of 103 (12.6%) of alums responded to a survey emailed to them during the summer of 2015. Alums that graduated from the 2008 through 2015 terms were surveyed.

Alumni that graduated with B.A.'s in Teaching were not surveyed.

1. What year did you graduate from CWU?

Answer	Response	%
2015	2	17%
2014	0	0%
2013	1	8%
2012	4	33%
2011	1	8%
2010	2	17%
2009	2	17%
2008	0	0%
Earlier than 2008	0	0%
Total	12	100%

2. Which degree program/s did you complete at CWU? Please check all that apply.

Answer	Response	%
B.A. French	0	0%
Other? (see below)	2	17%
B.A. Japanese	1	8%
B.A. Russian	1	8%
B.A. Spanish	11	92%

- BA Communications: Journalism
- Political Science

3. How important are each of the following competencies/skills to you professionally?

Question	5 Very important	4 important	3 Neutral	2 Not important	1 Not at all important	Total Replies	Mean
a. Reading in the target language	8	3	1	0	0	12	4.6
b. Writing in the target language	7	3	2	0	0	12	4.4
c. Speaking in the target language	11	1	0	0	0	12	4.9
d. Listening in the target language	12	0	0	0	0	12	5.0
f. Ability to use the target language appropriately in both formal and informal contexts	8	4	0	0	0	12	4.7
g. Cultural and historical understanding of communities who speak the target language	8	3	1	0	0	12	4.6
e. Critical reasoning	5	5	2	0	0	12	4.3

4. How well did the World Languages department prepare you for each of these competencies?

Question	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Neutral	2 Not well	1 Not well at all	Total Responses	Mean
a. Reading in the target language	5	4	1	2	0	12	4.0
b. Writing in the target language	3	6	1	1	1	12	3.8
c. Speaking in the target language	3	1	3	4	1	12	3.1
d. Listening in the target language	3	3	4	2	0	12	3.6
f. Ability to use the target language appropriately in both formal and informal contexts	2	2	5	2	1	12	3.2
g. Cultural and historical understanding of communities who speak the target language	4	6	1	1	0	12	4.1
e. Critical reasoning	1	5	4	2	0	12	3.4

5. What aspects of your learning experience could World Languages have improved?

Text Response
<p>More conversational classes, and a heavier emphasis on study abroad. I didn't study abroad and wish I had, but I didn't feel a push from really any of my teachers to do so. I don't think it should be required, but I do think it should come "highly recommended" and emphasized in all classes. I took both French and Spanish (majored in) in the CWU World Languages dept. I realize more conversational stuff is more difficult because it is basically asking students to chat during class and self-monitor the topic and grammar of the language, but I have a hard time holding a conversation in Spanish (and can't at all in French) because I can't recall the language fast enough to form the sentences and words I need to say. Office hours. All of my teachers had them, but not all of them were available during their office hours as they were supposed to be. I remember going to see a prof. for help on an essay during her office hours, and she wasn't around the whole hour she was scheduled to be there. Lucky for me, Prof. Lee was, and though my paper wasn't even for his class, he helped me. I also think smaller elective courses that deal with hard to express subjects (like science, math, medical processes) etc. are a good idea. Since I work at a newspaper, I often talk to people at the scenes of accidents, fires, etc. and wish I'd learned how to appropriately (with respect and cultural awareness) about injuries.</p>
<p>The brunt of the information I recall learning was out of a book--very little was ever applied or practiced in class. Many of us were capable of reading, and halfway constructing an essay, but nobody could hold a semi-fluent conversation unless the language had been learned at home. The cultural element consisted of reading classical Spanish and Mexican literature, which, while it was not detrimental to my education, certainly has not been useful since. It had nothing at all to do with the nuances of present day Latin American culture, which I have since had to learn on y own through personal experience.</p>
<p>Speaking, and listening</p>
<p>I would have liked a class that helped me find ways to apply my language skills professionally. I would have especially loved a class on translation and interpretation that could have helped me toward a certification.</p>
<p>More writing/grammar practice.</p>
<p>Overall improvement on the speaking of the target language would have helped.</p>
<p>I would have appreciated taking a class that taught me how to teach foreign/world language. When I was in the program the only class offered was FNLA 482(?) - Sociolinguistics.</p>
<p>When I came out of the program I could read and write very well in Spanish, but I could not speak fluently enough. There is too much of a focus on literature and not enough of a focus on conversation and speaking.</p>
<p>I think maybe a longer study abroad would have helped. It is very difficult to use my degrees because my language skills are not good.</p>
<p>I would have liked to come out of the program with a better grasp on speaking skills. Most of the speaking skills I gained were through a short study abroad program.</p>
<p>I wish Latin had been offered more frequently, with only one opportunity each year, I wasn't able to work it into my schedule. I think it would have been valuable to learn more business language.</p>

6. These next few questions relate to CWU's Mission and General Education goals. How strongly do you agree that your education from CWU helped you...?

Question	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	Total Responses	Mean
a. become a responsible citizen	3	6	3	0	0	12	4.0
h. increase your awareness of the many ways that knowledge evolves	3	5	4	0	0	12	3.9
c. become a productive and enlightened (informed, good learner, insightful) individual	4	7	0	1	0	12	4.2
d. value different perspectives	4	7	1	0	0	12	4.3
e. appreciate the breadth and depth of scientific and human knowledge	3	6	3	0	0	12	4.0
f. increase your sense of the interconnectedness of knowledge	4	5	3	0	0	12	4.1
g. integrate knowledge from diverse fields to solve problems	3	3	6	0	0	12	3.8
i. ask incisive and insightful questions	3	6	3	0	0	12	4.0
b. become a responsible steward of the earth	2	5	5	0	0	12	3.8

7. Please select the response that best describes your opinion about your World Languages education at CWU.

Question	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	Total Responses	Mean
a. I am very satisfied with my education from the World Languages department at Central Washington University.	4	4	2	2	0	12	3.8

8. What is your approximate annual (gross) personal (not household) income?










Answer		Response	%
Less than \$20,000		5	42%
\$20,001 to \$40,000		4	33%
\$40,001 to \$60,000		2	17%
\$60,001 to \$80,000		1	8%
\$100,001 to \$120,000		0	0%
more than \$120,000		0	0%
\$80,001 to \$100,000		0	0%
Total		12	100%

The estimated annual salary using the mid-points of the above ranges is: \$30,417.

9. Have you pursued any degrees after graduating from World Languages, formerly Foreign Languages? Please check all that apply.

Answer		Response	%
Certificate		0	0%
Bachelor degree		2	22%
Master or Professional degree		6	67%
Doctorate degree.		1	11%
Total		9	100%



10. We would like to find out more about what you are doing now. Where do you work or, if you are not working, which option below describes your status? Please check all that apply.

Answer		Response	%
Attorney		0	0%
Political Organization		0	0%
Higher Education (faculty or staff)		2	17%
Military		0	0%
State or Federal Government		1	8%
Other		2	17%
Stay at home parent or caregiver		0	0%
K-12 Education (teacher or administrator)		5	42%
Unemployed		2	17%
Non-profit administration		0	0%
Corporate Administration		1	8%
Service industry (Hotel, Restaurant)		0	0%
Translation / interpreting		2	17%
Editorial (Social media, journalism, etc.)		1	8%
Health professions		0	0%
Entrepreneurial		1	8%




11. If you are employed, please tell us your job title and the company you work for. If you are a graduate student, please tell us where you are enrolled and the degree you are pursuing.

Text Response
Staff Photographer, the Santa Clarita Valley Signal
Freelance translator/interpreter and English teacher, also teaching English at Ispeakuspeak.com. Pursuing M.A. Translation from the Universidad Autónoma de Manizales in Manizales, Colombia.
I am an EFL teacher in China, but over the summer I am translating English/Spanish for an immigration attorney in Seattle.
Bilingual Elementary Teacher, Bellevue School District
I am enrolled at Central Washington University for the TESOL graduate program.
Spanish Teacher - Bainbridge Island School District
Elementary Teacher in the Wapato School District
Marijuana Licensing Investigator at Liquor and Cannabis Board
PhD Candidate, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Biological Chemistry
I work as an Estimator for C-Con Services, which is my family business.

12. With which gender do you most identify?

Answer		Response	%
Woman		10	83%
Man		2	17%
Other		0	0%
I prefer not to answer		0	0%
Total		12	100%

13. Please indicate how you feel about the overall quality of teaching in the World Languages department.

Answer		Response	%
Very good		3	25%
Good		6	50%
Neither good or bad		0	0%
Not good		3	25%
Not good at all		0	0%
Total		12	100%

14. What aspects of your learning experience did World Languages perform particularly well?

Text Response
To this day, I remember the stories I read and papers I wrote for Prof. Lee's Spanish short stories class. That was a highly enjoyable class, and I wanted to take it again because Prof. Lee told me he was focusing on different stories the next year, but wasn't able to because it didn't count for another literature credit. Learning about the symbolism used by Spanish speaking authors of various countries in their stories is not only interesting, but also extremely educational culturally. A symbol can mean something entirely different if the author is from Bolivia and not Spain, etc.
The instructors were all very well-qualified, and wanted us to learn. However, the utility of the courses they were teaching was limited outside of classroom walls.
Writing
Great teachers - especially those who taught literature. Drs Alejandro Lee and Erik Mayer stand out to me. I greatly enjoyed my classes on Spanish Golden-Age literature and Central American literature because I learned something about the history and world views of those countries while being challenged to express complex thought in the target language. I should mention that I doubt I would be able to use Spanish in a professional capacity if I had not studied abroad for 2 quarters. I greatly appreciate CWU for offering that opportunity. The schools with which CWU partnered in Buenos Aires and in Valdivia were excellent.
The literature and poetry classes were excellent. I continue to read and translate Spanish poetry as a hobby and am working on re-reading Don Quijote in Spanish.
Grammar in the target language was taught well.
World Languages did a great job of educating me in all 4 aspects of language (reading, writing, listening, speaking) and the culture/history of the people who speak the language. I very much appreciate my education from the World Languages department at CWU.
I learned how to write in Spanish quite well during my time at Central. However, I think this great focus on reading and analyzing literature took away from time that was needed to sharpen speaking skills.
Love the professors just could use a teaching style that is now hands on. Not so out of a book.
I learned to write Spanish very well. I also had a great study abroad experience in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
I ALWAYS had fantastic professors, very willing to answer questions/help in and outside of class. I also found my study abroad program extremely helpful. All language students should be encouraged to take classes abroad in the target language.