Department of Modern Languages
Four Year plan, Classroom to Career

1A. Freshman Year, Department of Modern Languages

☐ Academic Advising
  Use your academic adviser and the peer advising program to explore Modern Languages and Literature, plus other potential majors, minors, programs and courses. We offer courses and/or programs in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

☐ Look at related fields
  Some MLL majors also do work in English, Psychology, International Studies, and International Business. Other students look at interdisciplinary minors like Asian Studies, Latin America and Caribbean Studies, and Italian Studies, plus the Eurasia Project. Talk to your adviser about these and other options.

☐ What to do with an MLL degree
  Do some Internet research at sites like http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/sep/18/modern-languages-graduate-careers

☐ Dream Job
  What is your "dream job" after graduation? What are you passionate about? Talk to your faculty adviser and other mentors. As an MLL major, how can you use your time at Fairfield to prepare for it through class work, internships, volunteer activities, summer jobs, leadership positions with clubs and organizations, and other relevant out of class experiences.

☐ Information Fair
  MLL is always represented at the Majors/Minors Information Fair. If you are considering our program, come by and say hi.

☐ MLL Clubs
  Students with related language and cultural interests meet through these clubs. See the department chair for details.

  • Italian Club: The Italian Club celebrates the riches of Italian culture including its language, art, food, theater and music. Members meet on campus for events as well as travel to New York to attend performances, tour Little Italy, and visit museums.

  • French Club: Students in the French Club participate in a variety of activities focused on the language and culture of France and Francophone countries. The club sponsors events both on campus and in the surrounding community.

  • Asian Student Association (ASA) - ASA seeks to spread the awareness of Asian culture on campus. Through various cultural activities and events, such as a Japanese Fall Festival and Chinese New Year, the club hopes to broaden the diversity of the University. Members of ASA participate in activities such as organizing and setting up for these events, visiting Chinatown in New York City, watching Asian films, and cooking
traditional food, among other things. Members discuss issues of young Asian and Asian Americans who seek to better understand their cultural identities.

- **German Club** - The German Club's goal is to speak German and learn and experience German, Swiss, and Austrian culture on and off campus.

- **Spanish American Latino Student Association (SALSA)** - The purpose of SALSA is to unite Latinos of all backgrounds, but at the same time infusing Spanish heritage into the Fairfield community.

- **Umoja (African American and Caribbean Student Association)** - Umoja's purpose is to create, stimulate, and maintain cultural activities on campus, focusing on the African American and Caribbean cultures. Umoja also maintains a commitment to the political and social welfare of its members.

**Study Abroad**

Immersing yourself in a foreign culture and language is essential. Start thinking now how to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Honor Society**

Come and meet students with similar interests. Fairfield University hosts a chapter of **Alpha Mu Gamma**, the National Foreign Language Honorary Society. It was founded in 1931 with the purposes of recognizing students' achievement in the field of foreign language study; stimulating a desire for linguistic achievement; encouraging a continuing interest in the study of foreign languages, literature and civilizations; and fostering sympathetic understanding of other peoples and international friendship.

Alpha Mu Gamma is the official sponsor of National Foreign Language Week. More than 350 charters have been granted to chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico. Chapters are found both in state and private universities and in public and private colleges. Talk to the department chair for details.

**Language Center**

Check out the **Culpeper Language Resource Center**, which provides a multimedia environment of hardware, software, and learning resources that aim to facilitate and promote the study of languages and their cultures.

**Seek out the experts**

**1B. Freshman Year, University wide**

- **Hear From The Experts**
  Attend lectures on campus and hear from professionals and experts in your field of interest. Start with the **Open VISIONS Forum** and look for other events listed in the university calendar. In choosing FYE events to attend, include those most related to career interests.

- **Seek Out As Many Experiences As Possible**
  Not sure of a career path? Use extracurricular activities to help you expand, or narrow, your choices.
The Core: Start Exploring
Talk to your faculty adviser about how to choose core courses that will encourage you to explore new areas and supplement your areas of interest and career goals.

Showcase Your Material
Start collecting materials you put in a portfolio to market yourself and help show your experience. Create a blog or e-portfolio to both present the work (newspaper stories, poetry, well-crafted essays, videos) and to offer reflections on them. Contact CAS Associate Dean Aaron Perkus for help in creating an e-portfolio.

Discover your passion!
Take chances on different classes and majors. Find faculty members who can guide your journey here. Get plugged in and, along the way, discover what you are passionate about.

Summer Jobs
Work with your faculty adviser to discuss options for a summer job that could give you experience and add content to your resume.

Campus Clubs and Student Organizations
Invest your time in activities that give you experience in your field of interest and put you in touch with students who might have similar career interests.

Study Abroad

Work, Work, Work
Look for a relevant job on or off campus to gain work experience. Consider volunteer opportunities, often tied to your academic interest, to give you experience and provide information on potential careers, especially with non-profit organizations. Looks for summer internships and jobs so you can apply classroom lessons to the professional world.

Living and Learning
Make plans for sophomore year to team up and network with other students who share your career interests.

Lead On
Look for chances to begin building your leadership skills. Take advantage of New Student Programs that bridge the classroom with the residence halls. Network with students in your residence hall who are enrolled in the same Cornerstone classes and participate in the First Year Experience (FYE) program. This will help you to make friends who share your passions and interests.

Preparing for graduate school, early
A large percentage of Fairfield students further their academic careers after four years at Fairfield. Fairfield’s pre-law program has a full-four year agenda of recommended activities. For freshman year, interested students should concentrate on attaining high grades in your University Core classes; develop good study habits; attend St. Robert Bellarmine Society Events; and follow the Pre-Law website for events and tips on applying to law school. Talk to your academic adviser about preparing for graduate school options.
Ask A Librarian
The DiMenna-Nyselius Library has resources to help you to discover, begin and manage your career. If you would like assistance in using any of these resources, contact a librarian.

Start Career Planning. Now
Make an appointment with the Career Planning Center (CPC) to meet with staff, talk about your goals and aspirations, and how to best utilize your next four years of college. Read about jobs in which you might be interested. Attend Career Fairs and ask employers what they are looking for in new hires. Look at the CPC’s online Career Planning Advisor Videos and Research Tools.
2A. Sophomore Year, Department of Modern Languages

- **More Advising**
  Use your faculty adviser and peer advising to choose the best courses, given your interest. Be prepared for your annual meetings.

- **Keep Dreaming**
  What happens after Fairfield? What would be your "dream job" – and how do you get there? Talk to your faculty adviser and other mentors: How can you use your remaining time at Fairfield to prepare for it? There are many options. With the broad liberal education that all Fairfield students acquire, plus command of a foreign language, modern language majors have launched their careers in a wide range of organizations and enterprises. International corporations headquartered in New York City and Fairfield County have sought out recent graduates who are familiar with a European or Asian language and culture. Banks, airlines, investment companies, and travel agencies are among the employers of recent graduates.

  Some alumni have gone into secondary teaching or have opted for work with social service agencies. Others have gone on to graduate or professional study, such as business and law schools, and various Ph.D. programs. A number of language majors have received Fulbright grants to teach or conduct research overseas. Talk to your academic adviser or department chair.

- **MLL Honor Society**
  Fairfield University hosts a chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, the National Foreign Language Honorary Society. Student members have attended conventions and given presentations at other universities. Since 2008 several Fairfield University AMG members have been among the recipients of the three major national scholarships that Alpha Mu Gamma awards annually. Talk to the department chair for details.

- **MLL Internships**
  Talk to your faculty adviser and start planning now for potential internships. Think about "trying out" a career, gaining work experience, marketable skills, potential mentors and a competitive edge. Look for potential matches between an internship with your career.

- **Honors Program**
  Qualified MLL students participate in the Honors Program at Fairfield University and, for students with an exceptional academic record of achievement, the opportunity to be elected to the country's premier honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

- **Line Up References**
  Start to look for 3+ professors in MLL and elsewhere who might serve as professional references for you. Discuss your future plans with them and ask for guidance. Stay in touch with them so they can speak about your successes in an informed way.

- **Internships**
  Start thinking now about how you can “try on” two careers -- and get credit for it. Internships in Modern Languages are both in the U.S. (Fairfield and New York areas) and abroad. They are designed to provide students with professional development opportunities within the public, private and non-profit sectors. All organizations include various international dimensions. As a major in modern languages and literatures, you'll utilize your learned foreign language in
meaningful work such as research, teaching, translating, assisting non-English speakers, and more. Several of our internships support community projects related to social justice initiatives. You may propose an internship that fits your needs and interest.

- **Study Abroad**
  Lots of options for MLL majors. Talk to your faculty adviser early in the process, well before you depart junior year.

- **MLL Clubs**
  Students with related language and cultural interests meet through these clubs. See the department chair for details.
  
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2B. **Sophomore year, University wide**

- **Hear From The Best**
  Look for lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet with students.

- **Career Readiness**
  Want to get a jumpstart on your future? *Sophomore Success* is a series of casual dinners developed to help you figure out such questions as: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter – do they

- Yes, employers look at GPA
  Keep your eye on the goal of academic excellence.

- Leadership Skills
  Consider a leadership role with a student club or organization to help give you leadership and management experience.

- Service Learning Courses
  Look for Fairfield courses that give you a chance to interact with the off-campus community, gain experience, and maybe pick up a resume credit.

- The Study Abroad Fair
  The Study Abroad Fair will give you tips to use in finalizing any travel plans for junior year. Talk to faculty and other students on how the experience could help further your career goals.

- Build A Portfolio
  Consider creating a blog or e-portfolio to collect materials that you can use to promote yourself in the future. Build a blog.

- Relevant Summer Job
  Talk to faculty and Career Planning to increase your chances of securing a summertime job (after sophomore year) that is related to your career goal, can give you some experience, and serve as a credit on your resume. Use Facebook and LinkedIn to present yourself to the world in a professional manner.

- Career Planning
  Don't wait! Make another appointment with a Career Planning Center counselor. Consider taking a "self-assessment inventory" test to help you get a better handle on where your strengths might be directing you. Update your resume. Look for workshops that can sharpen skills in writing resumes, networking, and mock interviewing. Register with Experience, Fairfield's online recruiting system, and get familiar with how it works. Students can search for jobs, internships, information on career fairs, and submit resumes to jobs and internships of interest.

- More Career Planning
  Attend Career Fairs and ask employers what they are looking for in new hires. Make an appointment with the Career Planning Center to meet with staff and talk about your goals and aspirations. Look at their online Career Planning Advisor Videos. Look at the Research Tools for Careers.
3A. Junior Year, Department of Modern Languages

☐ **Options After Fairfield**
How can you best use your remaining courses and free electives to both round out your education and prepare for a career? How about possible graduate school work in MLL ... or scholarships like a [Fulbright Fellowship](#) ... or Teach for America? Talk to your adviser.

☐ **Supervised Research**
Talk to favorite professors about possible supervised research projects you might do in your area of interest, in the summer or during the school year. On-campus [summer housing](#) might be available.

☐ **Internships**
MLL internships have many objectives. They provide practical experience through a variety of management/ supervisory learning opportunities. You can apply learned concepts and language skills in a professional setting. You can gain understanding of struggles for social justice within specific cultural and economic contexts. They provide opportunities for reflection and social engagement. You can engage with government, non-profit and private sector entities on behalf of the Department of Modern languages and the University. MLL students have recently interned in the Fairfield and New York City areas at the International Institute of Connecticut, Bridgeport, CT (Spanish and French); Quick Start Language Center, Bridgeport (Spanish); The International Center for Transitional Justice, New York, NY (French); and the Italian Cultural Institute, New York, NY (Italian).

Abroad, MLL students have worked at the [New Haven-Leon Sister City Project](#), Leon, Nicaragua (Spanish); Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua (Spanish); in the Teaching Assistant Program in France (French); at the International Center for Transitional Justice, Brussels and Geneva (French); and in various locations in Florence, Italy (Italian).

Talk to your faculty adviser about the two internships for credit that are allowed at Fairfield. Remember that summer jobs, not for credit, can be just as useful in gaining experience and building a resume.

☐ **Language Clubs.**
Time to step up and become a leader in the various language clubs. Talk to the department chair for details.

☐ **Independent Studies**
Interested in a research area but there is no course offered in the catalog? Talk to a faculty member or department chair about a possible independent study.

☐ **CAS Awards**
MLL has department awards for outstanding students every spring; they are honored at the College of Arts and Sciences award night in April. Attend the event and look for projects that might earn you this honor. With your faculty adviser, gain experience in entering such a competition and learn how to effectively package and present your work—and yourself. Non-seniors are often singled out for their great work.
 References
Look for three professors, in and out of the department, who can speak about your successes in an informed way.

3B. Junior Year, University wide

- **Shadowing**
  Fairfield is expanding its program for students to shadow alumni, where the student can take an inside look at a career, get an overview of a company or industry, explore individual career options and goals, and receive advice from a professional. Students in biology and psychology are among those who benefitted in the past. Contact Alumni Relations

- **Study Abroad**
  Use a Study Abroad trip to gain a cross-cultural perspective, move toward becoming a global citizen, and think more broadly about your studies and career possibilities.

- **Resumes**
  Continue to polish and hone your resume. What’s missing? How can you use your remaining time at Fairfield most effectively?

- **Working with professors**
  Talk to your academic adviser and other professors in your department about what else you can do to build on classroom learning.

- **Leadership**
  Gain management experience - and give something back - by taking as leadership position in a campus club or student organizations.

- **Networking**
  Begin networking by connecting with Alumni Career Services and its Fairfield Alumni Network (FAN) program. Look for relevant information in the Alumni Career Webinar Series, focusing on such issues as the job search and professional development. Look at the Fairfield Alumni groups on LinkedIn and join those that are relevant. Look at the Jobs Board and Internship Board.

- **RCADE workshops**
  These free, mini-courses can strengthen technical and computer skills. These days, to compete, you must be proficient in Excel, PowerPoint and Word, plus programs you might need for specialized jobs such as Photoshop and In Design. Beyond RCADE, how can you use any final elective courses to gain additional skills needed for your dream job?

- **Summer Jobs and Internships**
  Work with your professors to help find relevant summer jobs and internships that can give you more experience and add a credit to your resume.

- **Service Learning**
  To learn about paying careers with non-profit organizations, make room on your four-year course schedule for a Service Learning course.
- **Civic Engagement**
  As you add to your resume, what other opportunities can you choose to give you applied experience and civic engagement beyond the classroom? They might include summer jobs, internships, leadership roles in campus clubs, or mentoring other students. Work to become a leader and an explorer, through engagement with the broader community.

- **Hit The Library**
  The DiMenna-Nysselius Library has a large array of resources to help you to discover, begin and manage your career: If you would like assistance in using any of these resources, please contact a librarian.

- **Hear from the professionals**
  Attend lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet students. Start with the Open VISIONS Forum and other events at the Quick Center.

- **Leadership**
  Gain management experience - and give something back - by taking a leadership position in a campus club or student organization.

- **Your Portfolio**
  Consider creating a blog or e-portfolio to collect materials that you can use to promote yourself in the future. ([Build a blog.](#))

- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  Look for a relevant job on campus to gain work experience. Consider volunteer opportunities, often tied to your academic interest, to give your experience and provide information on potential careers, especially with non-profit organizations.

- **Career Planning Counselor**
  Have a counselor review your updated resume to develop it further and add your summer activities. Upload your resume on Experience for summer internships. Practice interviewing techniques with Counselors and take advantage of Mock Interview opportunities with real employers. Attend workshops. Participate in the Career Fair so you can see what it is like, begin meeting employers and researching who you might want to work for.
4A. Senior Year, Department of Modern Languages

- **Capstone Courses/ Independent Study**
  Use the Capstone Course to integrate what you have learned and reflect upon how you have grown at Fairfield and where your path will lead you next. The course also is usually a chance to also sharpen research skills, strengthen any Portfolio, and make fresh connections among courses and experiences.

  Start to narrow your interests and look for ways to use classwork, internships, summer work and potential independent studies to further your interest.

- **Final Internship**
  Use your final internship(s) to try out careers, sharpen your resume and cover letter, develop a portfolio, make contacts, and take classroom skills and apply to real world.

- **Line Up References**
  Finalize 3+ professors from MLL and elsewhere who might serve as professional references for you. Discuss your future plans with them and ask for guidance.

4B. Senior Year, University Wide

- **Final Work With Career Planning**
  Fine-tune your resume by adding summer jobs and senior classes. Hone your interviewing techniques. Read the Experience calendar daily. Network with alumni through the Fairfield Alumni Network (FAN). Attend the fall and spring Career Fairs. Update your resume on Experience. Apply for specific jobs by uploading your resume to that job description. Participate in real interviews. Look at the employment information and online job board.

- **Learn While Doing**
  Look for learning opportunities where you also gain useful experience. They might include internships, Service Learning courses, volunteer positions, and campus leadership roles. Become a leader of a campus organization or club and gain management experience.

- **Preparing for law school and graduate programs**
  About half of CAS students further their academic careers after four years at Fairfield. Fairfield’s pre-law program has a full-four year agenda of recommended activities. For senior year, the program encourages interested students, in the summer before senior year, to narrow the list of law schools in which you are interested. Work on your personal statement and application. Line up your letters of recommendation from faculty members and others. Have your application and supporting materials ready by late summer of your Senior year and apply as early as possible. If you were unable to take the LSAT in June of your junior year, plan to take the October exam in the fall of your Senior year. Apply as soon as possible after getting your scores. Attend St. Robert Bellarmine Pre-Law Society Events. Let the Pre-Law Advisor know of your progress in getting accepted. Other students will be anxious to learn from your experience!

- **Research**
  Look for opportunities to publicly present your research at academic conferences or on-campus poster sessions.
Capstone? Internship?
How can you most effectively tie together what you have learned? Your final courses allow you to reflect upon how you have grown at Fairfield and where your path will lead you next.

Role Models
Look for lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet students. Start with the Open Visions Forum.

Technical Skills
Attend workshops (sponsored by RCADE and others) to strengthen technical and computer skills. How can you use your remaining courses to gain additional skills needed for your dream job?

Non-Profit Sector
Look for a relevant job on campus to gain work experience. Consider volunteer opportunities, often tied to your academic interest, to give your experience and provide information on potential careers, especially with non-profit organizations.

Library Help
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Final Work With Career Planning
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View Your Contacts As A Network
Do you have faculty references lined up? How about classmates who can help inform you about jobs they hear about. Network!