

Russian Studies Major Requirements

Required Units: 99-117

Prerequisites

There are no language prerequisites for the Russian major. Students with native or near-native proficiency in Russian or with prior study at the elementary or intermediate level may begin language study at a higher level, based on consultation with the major advisor and placement through CMU placement tests.

Curricular Requirements (99-117 units)

1. Foundational Courses in Russian Studies (4 courses, 36-48 units)

Complete at least four semesters of Russian language study.

- a. 82-191 Elementary Russian I
- b. 82-192 Elementary Russian II
- c. 82-291 Intermediate Russian I
- d. 82-292 Intermediate Russian II
- e. 82-194* Intensive Elementary Russian (I & II)

**Students who take Intensive Elementary Russian and those who place into higher level courses will still need to complete three semesters of language study.*

2. LCAL Core Courses (1 course, 9 units)

- a. 82-282* Interpreting Global Texts and Cultures

**Please consult with an advisor for other options.*

3. Russian Studies Foundational Courses (3 courses, 27-33 units)

- a. 82-294 19th Century Russian Masterpieces
- b. 82-295 20th Century Russian Masterpieces
- c. 79-269* Russian History: From Socialism to Capitalism

**Other courses with a historical focus are available in LCAL or the Department of History. Please see an advisor for more options.*

4. Russian Studies Electives (2 courses, 18 units)

In consultation with the advisor, choose two additional courses focusing on Russian, Eastern Europe or Eurasia. Students may substitute one relevant and related course from outside the program (i.e., another LCAL course) or from another department (e.g., History, CMIST, Philosophy, English).

5. Milestone Requirements (9 units)

Students in their fourth year are required to either complete a) a final project or b) participate in the LCAL senior seminar.

a. Russian Senior Project

In their senior year, majors must complete a 20–25-page independent research paper, translation work or other capstone project making use of Russian sources. For this project, students will work closely with a LCAL professor (82-590). This in-depth research project offers students a unique opportunity to complete a piece of original scholarship, media or digital application in their areas of interest, and to develop an expertise with which to embark on future intellectual and professional pursuits. The number of credits for the thesis reflects the expectation that students will do significant work in Russian and use the project to advance their linguistic competence.

b. 82-580 LCAL Senior Seminar

The Senior Seminar serves as an opportunity for students to reflect upon their cumulative learning experiences. The primary goal of the seminar will be for students to reflect upon their cumulative language and cultural learning experiences while building a bridge between their work in LCAL, their additional fields of study and their roles as global citizens.

Co-curricular Requirements

1. Experiential Learning

Experiential learning in Russian is a key component of the major. Typically, this component is fulfilled through study abroad in a Russian-speaking country for a summer, semester or a year. Consult with the Office of International Education (OIE) about possible programs. Study abroad is highly recommended and can accelerate a student's progress through the major program. Courses taken abroad in Russian may count towards the Foundational Courses or Electives (Curricular Requirements 2 & 3) with the Russian Studies major advisor's approval.

While study abroad is the preferred method of fulfilling the experiential learning requirement, students who have curricular or personal reasons that prohibit them from studying abroad should consult with their major advisor to determine a 9-unit approved course, research or internship experience in a Russophone community or organization. Students may also reach out to Dietrich College's Director of Experiential Learning for assistance.

2. Exit Interview

Complete an oral proficiency evaluation. Taken with a faculty member, this evaluation should take

place by the end of the first semester of the senior year; students may also take it by the end of the junior year. Students are permitted to retake the test.

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