

Slavic Studies Major

www.slavic.pitt.edu/undergraduate/slavic-studies-major

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The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers students the opportunity to study the languages, literatures, and cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe, including Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Croatia. During fall and spring terms, the department offers courses in Russian, Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian, with Serbian available through the Less Commonly Taught Languages Center in the Department of Linguistics. The Summer Language Institute, a well-established and popular program of intensive language study that attracts students from across the country, offers the opportunity to cover two semesters of first- through fourth-year Russian; first- through third-year Slovak or Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian; first- and second-year Polish or Bulgarian; and first-year Ukrainian or Hungarian during a period of six to eight weeks. SLI also offers a study-abroad component where students may study for five weeks in Pittsburgh and five weeks in Moscow, or six weeks in Pittsburgh and four weeks in either Poland or Bulgaria. The department's program in Slovak language, literature, and culture deserves special mention – it is the only such program in the United States. The Russian Club, Polish Student's Club, the Pitt Student Slovak Club, and the Ukrainian Student Organization are active clubs within the Slavic department. The department offers Russian, Slavic studies, and Polish majors as well as a minor in Slovak language and culture.

Prospective Slavic studies majors include students whose primary interest is language or literature, students who wish to enhance their career opportunities, students who have an interest in Central and East European politics and culture, and students with a desire to explore their ethnic heritage. Slavic studies majors may choose to double major in another discipline in the School of Arts and Sciences. They may continue their studies in graduate or professional school or go on to careers in law, engineering, business, and government. The study of Russian and other Slavic languages is particularly valuable when working in local institutions, politics, business, health-related professions, and the media because of the great number of people who trace their roots to the various Slavic nations of Central and Eastern Europe.

Option 1

Three to four courses (two years) of a Slavic language above the intermediate level; choose one of the following groups

RUSS 0400 Advanced Russian 1
RUSS 0410 Advanced Russian 2
RUSS 1420 Fourth Year Russian 1
RUSS 1430 Fourth Year Russian 2

POLISH 0400 Advanced Polish through Film
POLISH 0410 Advanced Polish 2
POLISH 1903 Independent Study

SLOVAK 0400 Advanced Slovak 1
SLOVAK 0410 Advanced Slovak 2
SLOVAK 1901 Independent Study

SERCRO 0400 Advanced Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian 5
SERCRO 0410 Advanced Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian 6
Fourth year Serbian/Croatian [LAI or study abroad]

Eighteen credits of designated Slavic department courses in literature, film, and culture. Students must take three literature courses, one film course, and two courses in Slavic culture. One of the above must be a W-course.

Note: Six credits of Arts and Sciences courses with a strong Slavic component (courses found in the Russian and East European Studies listings) may be substituted, with the advisor's approval, for six credits toward this requirement.

Six credits of study abroad or designated Slavic courses in any of the categories above. If students choose a language course, the number of credits may be six to ten.

Option 2

Two courses (one year) of a primary Slavic language above the intermediate level; the language may be Russian, Polish, Slovak, or Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian

Two courses (one year) of a second Slavic language at any level; the language may be Russian, Polish, Slovak, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, or Czech

Eighteen credits of designated Slavic department courses in literature, film, and culture. Students must take three literature courses, one film course, and two courses in Slavic culture. One of the above must be a W-course.

Note: Six credits of Arts and Sciences courses with a strong Slavic component (courses found in the Russian and East European Studies listings) may be substituted, with the advisor's approval, for six credits toward this requirement.

Six credits of study abroad or designated Slavic courses in any of the categories above. If students choose a language course, the number of credits may be six to ten.

Note: The first two years (four courses) of language study do not count as credit toward the major unless the first year language is taken as part of option 2.

Related area: In addition to the core courses, students may take two Slavic-related courses in other departments (i.e. political science, art, history, economics). Such courses also count toward the REES certificate. Elective courses in the department include Polish, Slovak, and Russian film courses, Slovak and Russian culture courses, Russian, Polish, and Slovak literature courses, and cross-cultural courses such as *SLAV 0660 Science Fiction: East and West* and *SLAV 0880 Vampire: Blood and Empire*.

Grade requirements: A C or better in courses that count toward the major. A C or better in language courses is required to advance to the next level.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: No courses that count toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Honors major requirements: Juniors who maintain a 3.75 GPA in departmental courses and a 3.25 overall GPA may apply with their advisor for consideration for graduation with departmental honors. Requirements include: at least one additional 1000-level course; the submission of a 20-page research paper the writing of which involves the use of primary Russian source; and a 2-3 page summary of the paper in Russian.

Advising: Gerald McCausland
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Certificate programs: Slavic studies majors are encouraged strongly to earn an interdepartmental Russia and East European Studies certificate, many of the requirements for which overlap with the requirements for majoring in Russian.

Study abroad: Students are encouraged strongly to study abroad for a summer or for an academic term. Majors often apply for Nationality Room Scholarships for summer study. The Summer Language Institute offers generous scholarships as well. Study abroad opportunities include:

- **Summer study in Moscow, Poland, and Bulgaria:** The Slavic department currently sponsors a ten credit summer-study programs as part of the Summer Language Institute in Pittsburgh (five weeks) and Moscow (five weeks) at the Moscow State University, in Pittsburgh (six weeks) and Poland and Bulgaria (four weeks). Students may study first- through fourth-year Russian, or first- and second-year Polish and Bulgarian, covering one full year of language study in ten weeks. The Slovak Studies Program also provides access to a summer program in Bratislava which follows the Intensive Slovak courses during the summer. A departmental scholarship, the Thomas Kukucka Memorial Award is a possible source of funding for study in Slovakia. Contact the Slavic department at 412-624-5906 or slavic@pitt.edu.
- The University of Pittsburgh is affiliated with a number of other organizations holding both summer and semester or year-long study in Central and East Europe. Contact the [Study Abroad Office](#), 802 WPU, 412-647-7413
- The Russian and East European Study Center regularly organizes summer study courses in both language and social science in such locations as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, among others. REES has scholarships available for summer study abroad. Contact Nadia Kirkov, REES undergraduate advisor, for more information at 412-648-7418 or nak19@ucis.pitt.edu

- The Nationality Rooms program, 1209 Cathedral of Learning, offers a wide variety of competitive scholarships for summer study abroad in many parts of the world, including Central and East Europe. Applications are generally due in January. Contact the Nationality Rooms program at 412-624-6510 or kiley@ucis.pitt.edu.

Checklist for the Slavic studies major

Basic requirements

Six courses Slavic department courses: three in literature, one in film, and two in culture

_____ (W-course)

Note: One of these courses must be a W-course. Six credits of Arts and Sciences courses with a strong Slavic component (courses found in the Russian and East European Studies listings) may be used toward this requirement.

Six credits of study abroad or designated Slavic courses in any of the categories above

Note: The first two years (four courses) of language study do not count as credit toward the major unless the first year language is taken as part of option 2.

Option 1 – basic requirements plus the following

Choose one of the following groups

_____ RUSS 0400

_____ RUSS 0410

_____ RUSS 1420

_____ RUSS 1430

_____ POLISH 0400

_____ POLISH 0410

_____ POLISH 1903

_____ SLOVAK 0400

_____ SLOVAK 0410

_____ SLOVAK 1901

_____ SERCRO 0400

_____ SERCRO 0410

_____ Fourth year Serbian/Croatian [LAI or study abroad]

Option 2 – basic requirements plus the following

Two courses (one year) of a primary Slavic language above the intermediate level

Two courses (one year) of a second Slavic language at any level
