

Portuguese

- Bachelor of Arts
- Minor
- Graduate Degrees

Spoken by more than 270 million people in eight countries on four continents, Portuguese is the third most widely spoken European language, right after English and Spanish, and it's the sixth most used language in the world. UMass Dartmouth sits in the heart of a region boasting large populations of Brazilian, Cape Verdean, and Portuguese immigrants in the United States. Such an environment is a unique opportunity to explore Portuguese language and literature as students immerse themselves in the Portuguese language-speaking world.

Skills Developed

The Portuguese (POR) department provides a solid foundation in the Portuguese language and on the literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. Students will learn skills in literary theory, cultural analysis and linguistics along with practical skills in academic writing, research methodology, critical thinking, translation, and pedagogy.

Curriculum overview

Students who choose this major will study 120 credits, 30 of which will be in courses strictly related to Portuguese. As a minor, 18 credit hours of Portuguese academics will be completed. Strong communication skills will be developed through writing and speaking, analyzing texts from literary periods in Portugal, Brazil, and Lusophone Africa. History and contemporary realities are also a huge part of the degree experience.

Top Jobs

- Interpreters and Translators (median salary: \$47,190)
- Private Language Tutors (median salary: \$77,660)
- High School Teachers (median salary: \$59,170)
- Political Scientists (median salary: \$115,110)
- Immigration Officers (average salary \$59,789)
- Community Educators (average salary \$53,331)
- Foreign Service Officers (average salary \$88,544)

Internship Sites

Undergraduate internships in Portuguese have taken place in the Consulate of Portugal and the radio station WJFD in New Bedford, apart from various Portuguese community and social services and assisted-living facilities scattered around the South Coast region. Other students have interned at Dartmouth High School, Durfee High School, Fairhaven High School, New Bedford High School, Taunton High School, and several other K-12 institutions in the region. Additional internship sites include St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River and St. Luke's Hospital, in New Bedford, as translators-interpreters. Students also have served in this capacity for Portuguese-American house representatives and senators, and for the Court Houses in Boston, Fall River and New Bedford.

Career Placements

Former UMass Dartmouth undergraduate major and minor students who have graduated in Portuguese have been repeatedly employed as language teachers by Dartmouth High School, Durfee High School, Fairhaven High School, New Bedford High School, Taunton High School, among several K-12 institutions in the region. Other students have joined the staff of St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River and St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, as translators-interpreters. They also have worked in this capacity for Portuguese-American house representatives and senators, and for the Court Houses in Boston, Fall River and New Bedford. Our Master's and PhD recipients have acquired distinguished jobs of language and literature teaching and leadership at reputable institutions of higher education, such as the Central University of Florida, Harvard University, University of Rochester, California State University, and Newcastle University, in the United Kingdom.

Opportunities at UMassD

- PhD in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies and Theory, an interdisciplinary doctoral degree
- Master of Arts in Portuguese Studies
- Master of Arts in Teaching, a graduate degree of just one more year past the BA in Portuguese
- Study abroad at a Portuguese or Brazilian university
- The Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, with their cultural events, such as colloquia, exhibitions, and concerts
- The Portuguese Language Club
- The UMass Dartmouth chapter of Phi Lambda Beta, the National Portuguese Honor Society
- Teacher preparation courses