World Language Major at CASSIE institutions*
Descriptive statistics for 2010 and 2011 fall first-time freshman cohorts

4,355 out of a total of 154,587 students majored in a World Language

2.8% of student body in 2010 and 2011 cohorts majored in a World Language

3,122 out of a total of 4,355 World Language majors co-majored in at least one additional field

TOP WORLD LANGUAGE MAJORS**

- Spanish Language/Literature
- French Language/Literature
- World Language/Literature
- Classics Language/Literature
- German Language/Literature

TOP CO-FIELDS WITH WL MAJOR

- Social Science
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Biological Sciences
- Business Management
- Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies

WL Major Students: 71.7% Multiple-Majored
Non-WL Major Students: 19.1% Multiple-Majored

*Sample restricted to institutions that offer world language majors and submitted information on multiple majors.
**Degree names are National Center for Education Statistics program names for the CIP codes submitted by CASSIE institutions.

For more information: www.usg.edu/cassie
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WORLD LANGUAGE & STUDY ABROAD

2,087 out of a total of 4,355 World Language majors studied abroad

WORLD LANGUAGE MAJOR

- High School GPA = 3.69
- SAT Score = 1210
- % Received Need-Based Aid = 35.3%
- % Female = 69.1%
- % Underrepresented minority = 22.0%

No WORLD LANGUAGE MAJOR

- High School GPA = 3.57
- SAT Score = 1163
- % Received Need-Based Aid = 31.3%
- % Female = 53.4%
- % Underrepresented minority = 17.4%

TOP SA DESTINATIONS WITH WL MAJOR

- Spain
- France
- Italy
- Germany
- Argentina

Underrepresented minorities are defined here as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black or African American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
World Language Major at **CASSIE institutions**

Descriptive statistics for 2010 and 2011 fall first-time freshman cohorts

**WORLD LANGUAGE MAJORS**

- Degree in 6 years = 82.9% *(90.1%)
- Degree in 4 years = 59.4% *(65.1%)
- Semesters to Degree = 11.9
- GPA at Degree = 3.40
- Credit Hours Earned at Degree = 162.2

**NO WORLD LANGUAGE MAJOR**

- Degree in 6 years = 70.8% *(87.9%)
- Degree in 4 years = 49.4% *(61.7%)
- Semesters to Degree = 11.9
- GPA at Degree = 3.27
- Credit Hours Earned at Degree = 154.5

*These descriptive statistics suggest that World Language Majors have higher 6- and 4-year graduation rates, and higher GPA at graduation compared to Non World Language Major students.*

*Refers to the graduation rate of students who remain enrolled until their 3rd year. 'Semesters to Degree,' 'Credit Hours Earned at Degree' and 'GPA at Degree' are all conditional on graduation.*

*But because these students also differ in academic preparation, demographic, and socioeconomic characteristics, these descriptive statistics do not reveal the impact of only majoring in a World Language, but also the influence of other factors that contribute to student success.*
Matching analysis: What does this statistical analysis mean?

What does a Matching Analysis do?
Matching takes the existing sample of data where there are pre-existing differences in students who major in a world language and those who don't (e.g. High School GPA), and creates matches between students with similar characteristics.

What do we match on (i.e., control variables)?
1. High School GPA,
2. SAT/ACT Score,
3. Need-Based Aid Receipt,
4. Race/Ethnicity,
5. Gender,
6. Age at matriculation,
7. Full time (or part-time)
8. Number of terms enrolled
9. Multiple major

Without matching, the outcomes of WL Major students are compared against those who are Non WL Major. This ignores other differences that can exist across students.

With matching, students are first matched to each other on the control variables. Then, the outcomes of only matched WL Major and Non WL Major students are calculated.

Example: Unmatched data shows a notable difference in HS GPA for WL Major vs. Non WL Major students. Example: Once matches are constructed, the HS GPA for WL Major and Non WL Major are much more similar.

Balance plot example above shows high school GPA for those who did and did not major in a world language.
Outcomes: What is the effect of World Language Major for CASSIE institutions?

**DEGREE IN 6 YEARS**
-2.9pp

Students who major in a World Language are 2.9 percentage points less likely to graduate in 6 years compared with Non WL Major students.

**DEGREE IN 4 YEARS**
-4.6pp

Students who major in a World Language are 4.6 percentage points less likely to graduate in 4 years compared with Non WL Major students.

**SEMESTERS TO DEGREE [NSS]**
No statistically significant difference between students who major in a World Language and Non WL Major students.

**CREDIT HOURS EARNED [NSS]**
No statistically significant difference between students who major in a World Language and Non WL Major students.

**GPA AT DEGREE**
0.03

Students who major in a World Language earn a 0.03 higher GPA than Non WL Major students.

Locations of CASSIE institutions included in this analysis are approximated. pp = percentage points; For example, a finding of 10 percentage points means that the probability of graduating in 4 (or 6) years will be 10 points higher for a student who majored in a world language, compared with a student who is otherwise equivalent but did not. All estimates are statistically significant at the 5% level or smaller; NSS = Not statistically significant.