



## CLE

Center for Language Excellence

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#### Center for Language Excellence

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*For more information regarding Majors, Minors,  
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### Why Learn A World Language?

- ◆ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.
- ◆ According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you **boost decision-making skills**.
- ◆ Students who study world languages **score higher on standardized tests**, as a study from York University in Toronto showed.

Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.

- ◆ Knowledge of a world language **increases your chances of landing a good job**, as demonstrated in a recent poll in *The Economist*.

An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of \$128,000 more over their lifetimes.

- ◆ Learning a second language has compelling **health benefits**, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.



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# Why Study Wolof?

Wolof is the name of both the language and the people who are native to it in Senegal and parts of the neighboring Gambia and The Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It is predominantly used in Senegal as a lingua-franca, making it an essential language for communication. Moreover, the Wolof, who make up more than half of the Senegalese population, pride themselves in their unique ethnic and historic identity, occupy important political positions. They are renowned for their entrepreneurial competence which they have exhibited for hundreds of years with their trading partners, earning them economic prestige. Wolof is an important urban language used for a variety of socio-economic, religious and cultural practices. Students of this language, will open themselves up to several opportunities for research, business, and communication during visits to this region. Senegal is home to unique tourist sites due to its rich history, architecture and environmental landscape, and so are parts of Gambia and Mauritania where Wolof is spoken.

The African Languages Minor also permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at Indiana University (such as Wolof), gain social and cultural knowledge related to the language, and receive an introduction to African linguistics or pragmatics. This Minor is awarded through Linguistics.

## Who Speaks Wolof?

Wolof, belongs to the Atlantic branch of the Niger-Congo language family. It has about four million speakers who use it as a mother-tongue, a second, or even third language. It has different dialects such as Jolof, Kajoor, Bawol, Saalum, Waalo, Njambur and Lebu, within Senegal. Gambia and Mauritania speak different dialects. It is written with the Latin script. It is unique in that it is not tonal like other West African languages. The famous *griots* (poets, entertainers) of Senegal also use Wolof.

## Famous People of Wolof Descent

- ◆ **Gorgui Dieng** - professional basketball player
- ◆ **Seckou Keita** - musician
- ◆ **Anna Kingsley** - former slave-turned-plantation owner
- ◆ **Battling Siki (Baye Fall)** - American-Senegalese light-heavyweight boxer
- ◆ **Youssou Ndour** - Senegalese rapper based in the US



## Learn these everyday phrases!

- ◆ Hello (General greeting): **Na nga def (singular) / Na ngeen def (plural)**
- ◆ How are you?: **Jàmm nga am? (formal singular) / Na nga def? (informal singular)**
- ◆ Reply to 'How are you?': **Jàmm rekk? (formal) / Maa ngi fi rekk (informal singular)**
- ◆ Long time no see: **Gëj naa la gis**
- ◆ What's your name?: **Naka-nga sant? (formal) / Noo tudd? (informal singular)**
- ◆ My name is \_\_\_\_: **Maa ngi tudd \_\_\_\_ (or) \_\_\_\_ laa tudd**
- ◆ Morning greeting: **Jàmm nga fanaane**
- ◆ Afternoon greeting: **Jàmm nga yendoo**
- ◆ Evening greeting: **Jàmm nga yendoo**
- ◆ All day informal greeting: **Na nga def**

# Languages

Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Akan/Twi                 | Korean              |
| American Sign Lang       | Kurdish             |
| Arabic                   | Kyrgyz              |
| Avestan                  | Lakota              |
| Azerbaijani              | Latin               |
| Bamana                   | Macedonian          |
| Bengali                  | Mongolian           |
| Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian | Norwegian           |
| Catalan                  | Old Church Slavonic |
| Chinese                  | Pashto              |
| Czech                    | Persian             |
| Dari                     | Polish              |
| Dutch                    | Portuguese          |
| Egyptian (Demotic)       | Quechua             |
| Egyptian (Middle)        | Romanian            |
| ESL                      | Russian             |
| Estonian                 | Sanskrit            |
| Finnish                  | Spanish             |
| French                   | Swahili             |
| Georgian                 | Tajik               |
| German                   | Thai                |
| German (Old High)        | Tibetan             |
| Greek (Classical)        | Turkish (Ottoman)   |
| Greek (Modern)           | Turkish             |
| Haitian Creole           | Turkmen             |
| Hausa                    | Ukrainian           |
| Hebrew (Biblical)        | Urdu                |
| Hebrew (Modern)          | Uyghur              |
| Hindi                    | Uzbek               |
| Hungarian                | Wolof               |
| Indonesian               | Yiddish             |
| Italian                  | Yoruba              |
| Japanese                 | Yucatec Maya        |
| Kazakh                   | Zulu                |