



Languages Taught in Washington's High Schools and Community Colleges - 2013

In 2010, the Mapping and Enhancing Language Learning (MELL) project examined what languages were offered at our state's community colleges and what opportunities were available to students for continued language study as they graduate from high school and go on to community college. This is an update of that information. The data about language classes offered at community colleges have been largely collected from college websites and reflect courses offered in the respective colleges during the Fall 2013 quarter or semester.

A Snapshot of Languages Taught at Community Colleges - Fall 2013

According to the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) [<http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu>], there are 34 community colleges in our state, situated in 18 counties. [See Table 2.] Of those 34, 31 include world languages in their course catalog. Table 1 reflects data from 32 community colleges reported on in 2010 and a total of 34 community colleges researched in Fall 2013.

Table 1: Most Common Languages Taught in Washington's Community Colleges

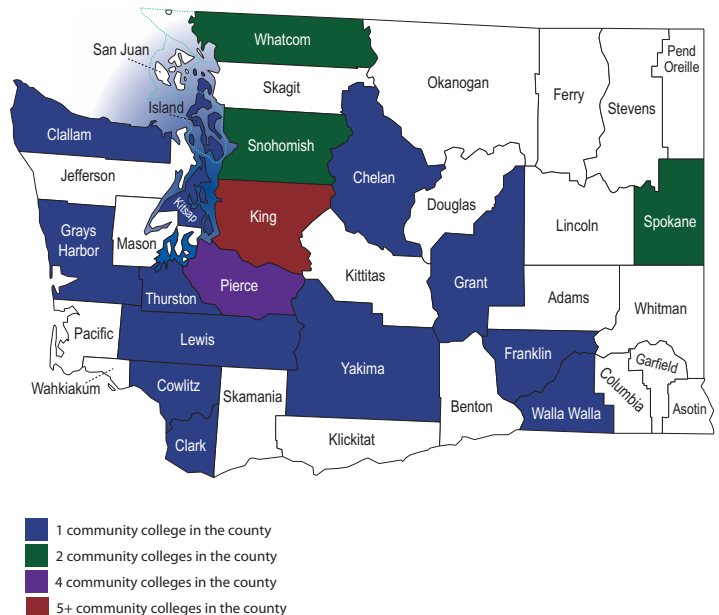
Language	2010		2013	
	# of comm. colleges	% of comm. colleges	# of comm. colleges	% of comm. colleges
Spanish	28	88%	31	91%
French	24	75%	23	68%
ASL	18	56%	23	68%
Japanese	20	63%	22	65%
Chinese	14	45%	19	56%
German	16	50%	18	53%
Russian	3	10%	7	21%
Arabic	3	10%	5	15%
Korean	2	6%	4	12%
Native Am. langs.	2	6%	3	9%

Note: A few community colleges also offer Italian, Classical Greek, and Tagalog. No community colleges offer Latin or Vietnamese currently.

Table 2: Community Colleges by County

County	College
Chelan	Wenatchee Valley College
Clallam	Peninsula College
Clark	Clark College
Cowlitz	Lower Columbia College
Franklin	Columbia Basin College
Grant	Big Bend Community College
Grays Harbor	Grays Harbor College
Island	Skagit Valley College
King	Bellevue College *
King	Cascadia Community College
King	Green River Community College
King	Highline Community College
King	Lake Washington Technical College
King	North Seattle Community College
King	Renton Technical College
King	Seattle Central Community College
King	Shoreline Community College
King	South Seattle Community College
Kitsap	Olympic College
Lewis	Centralia College
Pierce	Bates Technical College
Pierce	Clover Park Technical College
Pierce	Pierce College - Fort Steilacoom *
Pierce	Pierce College - Puyallup
Pierce	Tacoma Community College
Snohomish	Edmonds Community College
Snohomish	Everett Community College
Spokane	Spokane Community College
Spokane	Spokane Falls Community College
Thurston	South Puget Sound Community College
Walla Walla	Walla Walla Community College
Whatcom	Bellingham Technical College
Whatcom	Whatcom Community College
Yakima	Yakima Valley Community College

Note: * colleges not included in the 2010 MELL report



■ 1 community college in the county
 ■ 2 community colleges in the county
 ■ 4 community colleges in the county
 ■ 5+ community colleges in the county

Changes from 2010 to 2013

The data reveal a noticeable increase in the most commonly taught languages, such as Spanish, German, and Japanese. French is the only language that shows the largest decrease, with entries down 7% from 2010.

Languages considered by the US Government as “critical” languages, such as Chinese, Russian and Arabic, all show an increase. There has been significant growth (11%) in Chinese language programs over the past three years and now Chinese could be considered a commonly taught language taught in 56% of community colleges in the state. Both Russian and Arabic increased since 2010: Russian by 11% and Arabic by 5%.

ASL shows the largest overall increase, with entries up 12% from 2010. Korean increased by 6% and Native American languages increased by 3%.

Table 3 outlines the number of community colleges at which specific languages are taught and the number of years (level) they are taught (1, 2, or 3+) in Fall 2013. One year of college level language is considered the equivalent of three years of high school level courses. However, there is no statewide standard on proficiency levels targeted in college level language courses.

Table 4 outlines the number of counties in which specific languages are taught at the community college level and number of years (1, 2, or 3+). (Some counties have several community colleges, as in King, while some have no community colleges. See Table 2 and Map.)

Table 3: Number of Community Colleges that offer...

Language	1st-year or higher	2nd-year or higher	3rd-year or higher
Spanish	31	19	1
French	23	11	0
ASL	23	9	0
Japanese	22	11	0
Chinese	19	4	0
German	18	6	0
Russian	7	1	0
Arabic	5	1	0
Korean	4	0	0
Native Am. Langs.	3	1	0

Table 4: Number of Counties with Community Colleges that offer...

Language	1st-year or higher	2nd-year or higher	3rd-year or higher
Spanish	18	15	1
French	15	8	0
ASL	16	7	0
Japanese	11	7	0
Chinese	11	3	0
German	11	5	0
Russian	4	1	0
Arabic	2	1	0
Korean	3	0	0
Native Am. Langs.	2	1	0

High School to Community College Pipeline

MELL Policy Brief #11: Mapping Languages Taught in Washington High Schools — 2012 illustrates the distribution of common world languages taught in high schools across our state, mapped out by county. If we look at the counties in which a given language is taught at the high school level and compare that to the counties in which a language is taught at the community college level, we get a picture of opportunities that exist or don't exist for high school students as they go on to community college.

Spanish continues to be offered in 95% of the high schools that teach world languages. French is still the second most common language taught in high schools at 50% (down from 53% in 2009); German is at 27% (down slightly from 28% in 2009); Japanese is at 26% (up slightly from 24% in 2009); ASL is at 26% (up slightly from 23% in 2009); and Chinese is at 11% (up from just under 7% in 2009).

It is interesting that in high schools, Spanish is offered almost universally (in 95% of high schools), compared to community colleges in 2013 (in 91% of colleges). On the other hand, French is more common in the community colleges (68% in 2013) than in high schools (50%). The next most commonly taught languages (German, ASL, and Japanese) are offered in less than a third of the high schools, but ASL and Japanese are taught in 68% and 65% of colleges, respectively, while German is taught in 53%. The most interesting change is to see Chinese offered at 56% of community colleges, while only at 11% of high schools.

The Mapping and Enhancing Language Learning (MELL) project was initiated in 2006 by four National Resource Centers at the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies, which received funding through the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI program to launch a project to collect data on world language learning and teaching in Washington K-12 schools and colleges. The Center for Global Studies (CGS), Center for West European Studies (CWES), East Asia Center (EAC), and the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) are partnering with the UW Language Learning Center and the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to track and report data on world language teaching trends in Washington State. For further information, visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/mellwa/index.php>.