

Languages and Mississippi

A publication from the
**Mississippi Foreign
Language Association**



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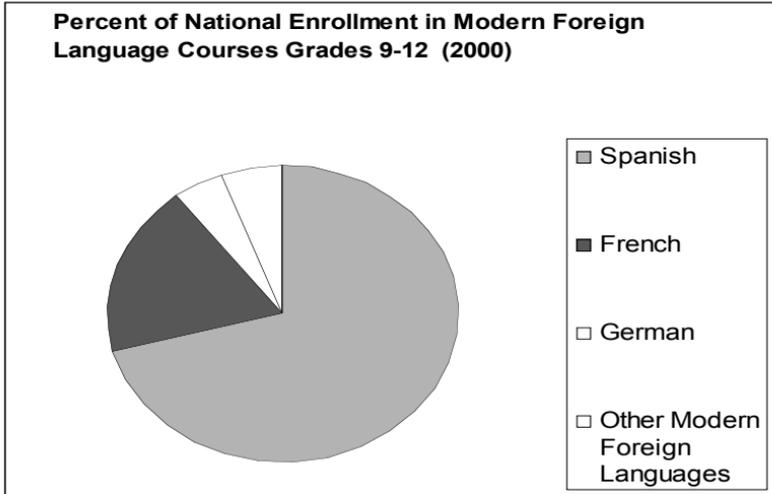
What languages are spoken in Mississippi?

... According to the 2000 census, the language spoken at home by persons five years old and over in Mississippi was...

<i>LANGUAGE</i>	<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>PERCENT</i>
Total Population 5 years and over	2,641,453	
1. Speak only English	2,545,931	96.4
2. Speak a language other than English	95,522	3.6
a. Spanish or Spanish Creole	50,515	1.9
b. French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	10,826	0.4
c. Other Native North American languages	5,654	0.2
d. German	5,501	0.2
e. Vietnamese	4,916	0.2
f. Chinese	2,506	0.1
g. Tagalog	2,005	0.1
h. Korean	1,485	0.1
i. Italian	1,336	0.1
j. Arabic	1,081	0.0

Other Native North American languages includes Apache, Cherokee, Choctaw, Dakota, Keres, Pima and Yupik. **Source:** <http://www.city-data.com/states/Mississippi-Languages.html>

Which languages do U.S. students study most often?



How did a "Mississippi girl" come to teach Spanish online from the Amazon?

Linda Flynn teaches online and promotes study abroad through cultural immersion while living in Peru. Through distance education, she teaches Spanish, Occupational Spanish and Speech for Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). Her "office" is located in two kiosks around the main square. "Teaching from Iquitos, a modern city of one-half million people, has been both a technological challenge and opportunity."

What is the function of the Foreign Language and Library Media Specialist at the Mississippi Department of Education?

The primary purpose of the Foreign Language Specialist is to assist district personnel in improving classroom instruction through the development, revision and training of the Mississippi Foreign Language Curriculum Framework. The Specialist also assists in implementing state standards and "best practices" for improving student achievement. She or he serves as point of contact for informational requests regarding foreign language instruction in the state. In addition, information regarding professional development and other issues of interest for foreign language teachers is disseminated through the listserv and Foreign Language Web Page maintained by the Specialist.

In 2005, the United States Department of Education awarded two Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) Grants to the State of Mississippi (see next page). The Foreign Language Specialist offers support to ensure the goals of the programs are reached and maintains accountability of the grants.

As of June of 2006 this position is unfilled. Contact information: MS Department of Education, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, P.O. Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205-0771; <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us>; (601) 359-2586; Fax (601) 359-2040.

Mississippi's FLAP Grants

Efforts to ensure that Mississippi students have the opportunity to be exposed to early language instruction have been very successful. Croft Professor of Spanish and Foreign Language Education at the University of Mississippi, John Gutiérrez, has been working with the school district in Gulfport to acquire federal funding to assist the youngest of Mississippi's language learners.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade in the **Gulfport** School District have been participating in programs as a result of two grants from the FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program), of the U.S. Department of Education. In 2001, the district received \$419,500 that allowed for the creation of a pilot program for K-3 students in two high-poverty elementary schools. In 2004, a second grant of \$406,000 allowed for the program to be expanded through the fifth grades in the district.

The success of the program led to the acquisition of a third grant of \$445,000, awarded in 2005 for similar programs across the state (**Moss Point schools, Oxford City Schools, Western Line Schools and Poplarville Schools**) to offer Spanish in K-3, starting in the 2006/2007 school year.

[Adapted from the *Oxford Eagle* 12/30/2005, p. 7.]

Migrant Education Program of North Mississippi / Programa de Educación para Migrantes del Norte de Misipí

- Has someone you know moved from one school district to another to work in agriculture, in activities such as: production or other job on a farm; processing harvests and meats; dairy, poultry, fishing, cattle; pruning trees, planting seeds, preparing the soil; working in a greenhouse or nursery?

- Is an agricultural worker you know under 22 years of age and without a high school diploma? Does he or she have children?

- **If you answered YES, our program might be helpful to that person.** The Migrant Education Program of North Mississippi is only a phone call away from you; we are available **year-round** to answer your questions and those of migrants, and we can give a hand with schools, agencies or other programs.

- **Please contact us so that we can help:** Migrant Education Program, Patricia M. Lestrade, Director; Monica Fossi, Coordinator/Recruiter; Richard Morony, Recruiter/Assessment; P.O. Box FL, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762; Phone: **(662) 325-1815.**



**Free Electronic
Resources for
Foreign Languages
(General Interest)**

Michelle Emanuel
University of Mississippi Libraries
memanuel@olemiss.edu

Online Newspapers. Thousands of world newspapers at your fingertips. **<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/>**

Portals to the World. Maintained by the Library of Congress, this site contains selective links providing authoritative, in-depth information about the nations and other areas of the world. They are arranged by country or area with the links for each sorted into a wide range of broad categories. **<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html>**

Electronic Text Collection in Western European Languages. A site maintained by the Western European Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, providing links for literary texts in the western European languages other than English. **<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/etexts.html>**

Yamada Language Guides (University of Oregon). A collection of language-learning links, including resources for self-study. **<http://babel.uoregon.edu/yamada/guides.html>**

YourDictionary.com. A "comprehensive and authoritative language portal," including more than 280 English and foreign language dictionaries. <http://yourdictionary.com/>

Foreign Language Lesson Plans and Resources for Teachers (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). A site providing links to Internet sources on the Catalan, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish languages. <http://www.csun.edu/%7Ehcedu013/eslsp.html>

Ethnologue. This standard directory of world languages offers information on population, dialects, bilingualism, availability of dictionaries and more for over 6700 languages included. <http://www.ethnologue.com/>

Websites for Multi-Language Teacher Organizations

**Mississippi Foreign Language
Association: [www. MSFLA.org](http://www.MSFLA.org)**

**Southern Conference on Language
Teaching: [www. SCOLT.org](http://www.SCOLT.org)**

**American Council on Foreign Language
Teaching: [www. ACTFL.org](http://www.ACTFL.org)**

Why Study a Less Commonly Taught Language?

Dr. Donald L. Dyer

Chair and Professor of Modern Languages
University of Mississippi

"I started studying Russian in college because it was the most 'exotic' language I could enroll in. There are people who are attracted to languages such as Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese and Korean precisely because they are *not* languages in the 'main stream.' These and others are what we call less commonly taught languages (LCTLs), because instruction is offered less frequently in these languages than in Spanish, French or German. Yet there are other reasons to study the LCTLs, including humanistic and practical. Languages like Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Japanese and Russian are sometimes also referred to in this country as 'critical' or 'strategic' languages, which means knowledge of them is important for our nation's defense. Those who are willing to learn these languages will be able to realize excellent career opportunities in business, government and intelligence venues in the immediate future."

**The American Council on the Teaching
of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
is holding a campaign called
"Discover Languages" in 2006. Check it
out at: [www. ACTFL.org](http://www.ACTFL.org)**

Did you know that there are Mississippi businesses who teach you specialized courses, provide you translation services or can find you an interpreter?

...Check at your local library or Chamber of Commerce for the businesses in your area. One example of a Mississippi business that has been successful here and outside the state is Command Spanish, Inc., which has produced [...] 1) language programs for professionals in the following fields: dental and medical, criminal justice, public safety, education, business and commerce, industry and manufacturing and hospitality. 2) National Certification for Spanish teachers through independent study in which one can earn 1-2 CEUs.

[Adapted from the Command Spanish brochure. www.Commandspanish.com, 601-582-8378, E-mail: info@commandspanish.com. Fax: 601-582-5177, Mail: Command Spanish, Inc., Attn: Registrar, PO Box 1091, Petal, MS 39465]

**"Language Study in the
Age of Globalization:
The College Experience"**

is a free pamphlet that you can request for yourself (or in multiples of 20) by writing to
langbrochure@mla.org

The intensive **Chinese Flagship Pipeline Program** of the University of Mississippi and the Croft Institute is part of National Security Education Program. It provides financial aid for on-campus intensive summer courses as well as summer study abroad in China. A separate application from university admission is required. See Intensive Chinese at the Ole Miss Modern Languages website: http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/modern_languages/

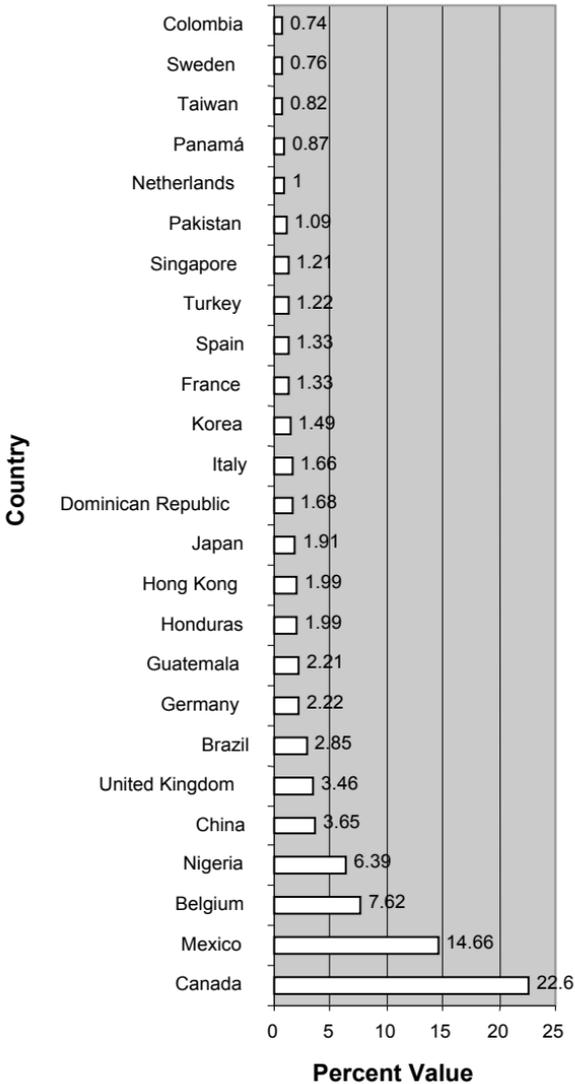
What languages are useful for Mississippi businesses?

All of them!

Mississippi exported to 170 foreign destinations in 2004. The state's largest markets that year were our NAFTA trading partners, **Canada and Mexico**. **Canada** received \$718 million in exports from Mississippi, while **Mexico** received \$466 million. These two markets accounted for over one-third of Mississippi's total exports in 2004. Other top markets included **Belgium, Nigeria, China, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Germany, Guatemala** and **Honduras**. Mississippi's biggest growth market between 2000 and 2004 was **Nigeria**. Exports to **Nigeria** increased by \$202 million. Other large export increases were to **Canada**, \$197 million; **Belgium**, \$63 million, **Mexico**, \$55 million, and **Brazil**, \$49 million. In the period 2000-2004 Mississippi also more than doubled its exports to **Pakistan, Singapore, Brazil** and **Guatemala**. See: www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/state_reports/mississippi.html

Which countries trade most with Mississippi?

Mississippi Exports, Top 25 Countries
(2004, Percent Dollar Value)



What is the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) and how can one find out more about it?

- The **National Security Language Initiative** aims to increase the number of Americans learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi and others through new and expanded programs at all levels of learning. Under the direction of the President of the United States, the **Secretaries of State, Education, and Defense**, and the **Director of National Intelligence (DNI)** have developed a plan to expand foreign language education from early childhood to the work force.

- The **Department of State Programs** include:

- 1) the U.S. Fulbright Student Program, www.iie.org;
- 2) the Intensive Summer Language Institutes, <http://www.caorc.org/language>;
- 3) the Gilman Scholarships (financial support for recipients of Pell Grants to pursue overseas study in critical needs languages), www.iie.org/programs/gilman;
- 4) the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants, www.iie.org;
- 5) the Teacher Exchange, <http://www.exchanges.state.gov>; and
- 6) the Youth Exchanges, <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students>.

- Programs at the U.S. **Department of Education** include:

- 1) **The Foreign Language Assistance Program.** A proposal to teach and study critical

need languages in K-12 by refocusing the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) to target critical needs languages and to replicate the spread of innovative foreign language programs in critical needs languages, especially those using technology. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>

2) Advancing America Through Foreign Language Partnerships. Twenty-four school districts in partnership with colleges and universities will create programs in critical need languages in 2007, probably expanding to additional schools in the future years to build continuous programs of study from kindergarten through university. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=oc>.

3) Language Teacher Corps. The program would offer Americans with proficiencies in critical languages opportunities to serve the nation by teaching languages at the elementary and secondary level. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/index.html?src=oc>.

4) E-Learning Clearinghouses. This proposal would provide a central repository for schools, teachers and the public to find materials and web-based programs in critical needs languages developed by national resource centers, K-12 instructional programs, institutions of higher education and agencies of the federal government. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=oc>.

5) Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative. Proposed seminars to reach thousands of foreign language teachers, seeking to improve instruction in middle and high schools. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=oc>.

**What languages are offered
at the Mississippi School for
Math and Science?**

**"We teach six languages: Spanish, French,
German, Latin, Italian and Russian.
Students travel for study abroad in countries
that speak Spanish, French, Italian and
German," writes teacher Ileana Johnson
(mail to: ijohnson@msms.k12.ms.us).**

**What is the Tribal Language
Program of the Mississippi Band of
Choctaw Indians?**

The program started after the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians realized that many of the group's young children were not learning Choctaw at home. New staff were hired who began working after school with children for 40 minutes a day at Pearl River Elementary and Red Water Elementary. A summer language immersion camp was first implemented in June, 1997. After reviewing the goals and objectives with the staff and language committee, the program was modified to focus more on the children's language maintenance.

[Adapted from

[http://www.choctaw.org/culture/choctaw_ language.htm](http://www.choctaw.org/culture/choctaw_language.htm). *Contact information:* Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, 101 Industrial Road, Choctaw, MS, USA 39350; (601) 656-5251; info@choctaw.org]

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For more information, contact Dr. Diane Marting, President of the MFLA 2005-2006, dmarting@olemiss.edu, 662-915-7104, or the current officers through www.msfla.org.

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