The Portuguese program at SDSU includes courses in language (beginner to advanced levels), Brazilian, Portuguese and African Lusophone culture, cinema, history, music, and literature.

The Portuguese program also organizes extracurricular activities such as the Portuguese conversation group “Bate-Papo,” and other specific events.

In a world where knowledge of other cultures is increasingly important, learning a foreign language is crucial.

Portuguese is the fifth most-spoken language in the world, the most widely spoken in the southern hemisphere, and the third most-spoken in the Western world.

Take advantage of this opportunity offered at SDSU, by completing courses in Portuguese language and/or completing the Minor in Portuguese. The program includes tracks for advanced speakers of Spanish and graduate students, including those seeking to demonstrate a reading knowledge of Portuguese.

Dep. of Spanish and Portuguese
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-6010
Arts & Letters, Room 134

Angola – Brazil – Cape Verde – East Timor – Guinea Bissau – Equatorial Guinea – Mozambique Portugal – São Tomé e Príncipe
The Minor in Portuguese at SDSU

The minor consists of a minimum of 15 units, 9 of which must be approved upper division courses, to include at least 6 units of upper division courses taught in Portuguese. Any course taught in English needs department approval to apply to the minor requirements.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of 6 upper division units must be completed in residence at SDSU.

For more information, contact the Director of the Portuguese Program, Prof. Ricardo Vasconcelos (rvasconcelos@mail.sdsu.edu), or the undergraduate advisor, Esther Castro (esther.castro@mail.sdsu.edu).

Why should I learn Portuguese at SDSU?

Speak with 260 000 000 people!

Portuguese is spoken by about 260 million people (as a native and/or official language), and is the 5th most-spoken language in the world. It is the language of Brazil and Portugal, and an official language in Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Macao (China), São Tomé e Príncipe, and other territories. Its presence in four continents makes Portuguese truly a global language. In the U.S. – even here in San Diego – there are a number of large Portuguese-speaking communities.

Make a useful life-changing decision!

Learning Portuguese is a smart decision: an emerging economic power, Brazil is the 5th most populous country in the world and represents half the population in South America; Portugal is a gateway to the European Union; most Portuguese-speaking countries currently experience economic growth. If you are interested in literature, Portugal has an 800-year valued literary tradition, Brazilian writers are amongst the most renowned in world literature, and African Lusophone countries have their own exciting literary traditions. At SDSU you can also study about the music and cinema of the Portuguese-speaking countries.

It is the right choice for YOU!

If Portuguese is your first foreign language, the grammatical affinities with English make it possible for you to develop competence in communication only after a year. If you already speak a romance language, such as Spanish, that will also dramatically enhance your learning of Portuguese.

Take advantage of the communicative-based classes, and of the close relationship between students and teachers, and grab the opportunity of learning Portuguese at SDSU!