

language learning center

www.csusm.edu/lc

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California State University San Marcos is located in Northern San Diego County. The campus is located about 35 miles north of San Diego, 100 miles south of Los Angeles, and 10 miles inland.

CSUSM's Language Learning Center (LLC) is located in University Hall. This is one of the first buildings on campus; we are right in the middle of things, between the library and the other primary academic buildings. This campus map shows our location: http://www.csusm.edu/resources/images/maps/view5_nu.pdf.

The College of Education has most of the building's offices. However, the World Languages and Hispanic Literatures Department tries to schedule many of its introductory language classes in University Hall, so that students may easily stop into the LLC and may also be often reminded of its existence and services. Let's go in...



This is Room 240, through which all students must enter.

Room 240 is for independent study: listening to audio files, making voice recordings, watching movies, doing other homework...

Room 240 hosts our free tutoring sessions (more info below).

Room 240 is where we administer Proficiency Exams, which students can take on an individual basis in most languages to meet our Language Other Than English Requirement (http://lynx.csusm.edu/lc/graduation_requirement.asp).

Room 240 is a 'loud' computer lab that allows talking, so students also come to do group work, other academics and activities, or even for personal time.

The many bright and varied posters are from country embassies, consulates and cultural centers; they reflect a country's view on how it perceives itself and/or how it would like to be seen by the world.



A student assistant sits at all times at the desk at right, next to the only door that opens for students. Student assistants answer questions, make sure students log in and out, trouble-shoot technological issues, do data entry, and work on special projects.

The bulletin board on the right has signs about LLC hours, tutoring hours (including tutors' names so students can stay with one they like), no food or drink, putting cell phones to vibrate, print station in other room, library info, World Languages and Hispanic Literature Department news and contact info, and other useful tidbits.

The certificate next to the bulletin board grants the LLC permission to certify its tutors in College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Level I, upon completion of a 10-hour training that we create but which follows CRLA guidelines (www.crla.net). We also have permission to certify Level II and are working on permission for Level III. All tutors in the LLC should receive Level I by the end of their first semester of employment, Level II by the end of their second, and Level III by end of their third.



The desk to the left of the Student Assistant's is the master station for the analog Tandberg classroom.

At this point, the master station is only used to turn on the cassette machines at each student station, either for Proficiency Exams or for when an instructor has prepared an activity that requires cassette voice recording rather than digital voice recording.

We have requested the funds to install language learning lab software on all computers in both rooms...



Room 240 has four carousels with 8 computer stations each, all of which have a Tandberg analog cassette unit & a headset with microphone, located at the back of the desk under the shelf.

Of the 32 stations: 21 also have PCs with standard headphones; 8 also have DVD/VCR players with video units (for movies and Proficiency Exams); and 3 also have MACs that are not connected to the Internet nor on the campus refresh program, to support a few software programs that require an older OS and for students who prefer those systems.



This is the tutoring area of Room 240.

We offer free tutoring in all languages taught at CSUSM. Students make appointments for up to one ½ hr session/day. (Go to: www.csusm.edu/lc and click "make an appointment".)

The 3 tables get much use! The TV with DVD player & white board are not used as often. Under the board is a map of Spain; next to it is a Spanish verb chart.

The 6 closest computers are dedicated tutoring computers. Tutors check & manage appointments online, prepare for their sessions, and can also tutor students with computer work.



This is a view of the entire LLC: Rooms 240, 250, and 260.

We are in Room 240, by the front desk & main door. We can clearly see one of our four 8-station carousels.

Through the doorway is Room 250, a long and narrow Tech Room (which also has the desk of our full-time Language Assessment Coordinator on the right, behind the glass).

Through the far doorway is Room 260, which is set up as a standard classroom. This room takes overflow from the Room 240, if it is available, but is primarily for classes and groups.



Room 250 holds our library, so that we can manage the check-out process and in order to lock it at night.

We have movies, CDs, & books in French, German, Japanese, & Spanish on topics such as culture, travel, language & grammar. We are adding Arabic this summer, to support that new program. We have English grammar books and a few items in languages not offered on campus but in which students test for the Proficiency Exam (Tagalog, Chinese...).

Students check out materials by taking an item & ID to the front desk. We enter the item in a spreadsheet, to track items and to ensure that we have enough of what is being most used. The ID is returned to the student after they replace the item.



Room 250 is long and skinny. The Language Assessment Coordinator's desk is behind us.

A student paying print station is underneath this camera view, and our library bookshelf is to the left. We have a copier for staff and tutors, and in the back are supplies and mailboxes.

In the far back is our 'kitchen', with a fridge, microwave, and coffee machine, where student assistants & tutors take breaks and store personal items. We wish it were larger and more of a lounge/meeting room. Perhaps someday...

This room is locked by LLC staff at the end of each day; housekeeping does not have a key.



Room 260 has unique voice recording software & hardware, as well as a TV/VCR, overhead projector, and smart computer/DVD/projector. All Japanese classes are held here. World Languages & Hispanic Literatures has many smart classrooms & introductory classes often have more than 30 students, so there have been fewer class visits this year. Our American Language & Culture Institute is using us more. Language clubs, meetings, and tutor training also occur here.



Room 260 used to be a distance learning classroom, with monitors installed in the desks. We moved the monitors to the tops to make a standard classroom arrangement. Altiris Vision software (chatting) and Audacity (voice recording saved as an .mp3 to student's personal drive) are installed on all computers on campus but can be hard to manage; our staff is trained to assist instructors in this room with Altiris and students in either room with Audacity. *Thanks for visiting!*