Utah’s Advanced Language Bridge Program

The Utah K-12 Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program began in 2008. Since then, the program has grown to include 6 languages (Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) and more than 50,000 students. The high school Bridge Program was created to bridge the impending gap between completion of the AP Language and Culture exam (as early as 9th grade) and the start of university language study.

Utah is a national leader in K-16 DLI Pathways, offering upper division university language course work in the high school setting. Students successfully completing 3 Bridge Courses will graduate from high school 2 or 3 courses shy of a minor in their language of study.

The Bridge Program is a partnership between Utah’s K-12 and higher education systems. Bridge Courses are designed specifically for advanced language students in grades 10-12, combining upper division university learning outcomes and language proficiency targets with age-appropriate and engaging content.

Bridge Courses are offered on a 3-year rotation, with the same course for each language offered by all institutions across the state in a given year.

- 2019-20: Spanish 3116, French 3116, Chinese 3116
- 2020-21: Spanish 3117, French 3117, Chinese 3117
- 2021-22: Spanish 3118, French 3118, Chinese 3118
The Bridge Program provides an articulated K-12 pathway for students in Dual Language Immersion Programs. Additionally, Bridge Courses are open to any students in grades 10-12 at designated DLI pathway high schools who passed the AP Language and Culture exam.

Benefits to students:

- Supports **college- and career-readiness**, with rigorous academic work in high school as a strong predictor of earning a college degree (UofU-Office of Instructional Analysis)
- Provides K-12 **articulation** of courses and a clear course pathway to college study
- Huge **financial savings**. Bridge courses cost $15 tuition per 3-credit course. On-campus tuition at public institutions in Utah can cost up to $1,782 for a 3-credit course.
- Bridge course credit is accepted at ALL of Utah’s public universities, and counts toward a student’s minor or major requirements in their language of study.
- University **DOUBLE MAJOR** pathways are opening up each year, combining students with options to complete their Language Major + complete a Career Major in just 4 years (dependent on the number of Bridge Program courses successfully completed).
- **Retention/completion**: Rigorous academic work in high school is a strong predictor of earning a college degree (UofU-Office of Instructional Analysis). USHE Annual Report 2015-16 states:
  - “Students participating in concurrent enrollment are **two times more likely** to attend college within four year of high school graduation than students who don’t participate.”