Twin Cities Campus

French Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate

French & Italian

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Undergraduate credit certificate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2020
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 6 to 8
- This certificate requires an intensive French-language immersion experience. See certificate requirements for the options to fulfill this requirement. This certificate requires students to achieve a minimum score on two exams. At the beginning of the program, students must achieve a passing score on the French LPE. At the end, they must achieve at least an advanced low rating on all four skills of the ACTFL French language examination (speaking, listening, reading, writing). Merely fulfilling the other program requirements is not sufficient for students to obtain the certificate.
- Degree: French Advanced Level Proficiency Certificate

This certificate is designed for students interested in achieving advanced-level proficiency in French and having their skills formally recognized. People who have advanced-level proficiency in French possess the speaking, reading, writing and listening skills sufficient to satisfy the requirements of everyday situations at home and at work. They also generally understand and are understood by native speakers of French. For an extended definition of advanced-level proficiency, please visit the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages website: https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/guidelines/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012.pdf The Certificate of Advanced-Level Proficiency is open to all University of Minnesota undergraduate students, especially those who seek higher levels of French proficiency in order to become more competitive for graduate or professional programs, careers with domestic French-speaking populations, or international careers.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Any major or minor offered by the Department of French and Italian may be combined with the French Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate.

French LPE

Pass the French Language Proficiency Exam (LPE). This exam is typically taken after 4 semesters of college-level study, or the equivalent. For more information, please visit http://langtest.umn.edu/lpe.

Composition, Communication, and Content-Based Coursework

Take FREN 3016 or its equivalent abroad, and one content-based course, or two content-based courses. A content-based course is defined as one that is either taught almost exclusively in French, or for which the discussion section is delivered in French, and is content-based and focused on an academic discipline. Courses taken abroad will count if they are taught in French and have a minimum of 10 pages of written work in French with at least one assignment of at least 5 pages in length.

Take exactly 2 course(s) totaling 6 - 8 credit(s) from the following:

FREN 3016 or equivalent

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

- FREN 3016 - Advanced French Composition and Communication (3.0 cr)
- MONT 3016 - Advanced French Composition and Communication (3.0 cr)
- course equivalent to FREN 3016 taken abroad

- **Pre-approved content based courses**

Any FREN 31xx, 32xx, 33xx, 34xx, 35xx, 36xx or 38xx may count as a pre-approved content-based course, provided they meet the writing requirements indicated above. FREN 3101W, required for all majors and minors, meets the content-based course

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

requirement, but students not completing the major/minor may opt for a course in linguistics [35xx] or culture [36xx]."
Take 1 - 2 course(s) from the following:
•FREN 3101W - Methods in French and Francophone Studies [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3111 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3140 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3240 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3260 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3310 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3340 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3350 - Topics in Literature (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3410 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3431 - Gender and Sexuality in Francophone Literature and Cinema (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3451 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3471 - Topics in Francophone African Literature and Cultures [GP] (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3479 - Francophone Writers of the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3500 - Linguistic Analysis of French (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3521 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3531 *{Inactive}*[GP] (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3541 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•FREN 3611 - Speaking of Love in Medieval France: Stories, Songs, and Letters [LITR, GP] (3.0 cr)
•FREN 3650 - Topics in French/Francophone Cultures (3.0 cr)
•other pre-approved content-based course

French-language Immersion

Participate in an intensive French-language immersion experience. There are three options for completing this requirement. Because Option 3 involves less contact with French speakers than Options 1 and 2, students should only take Option 3 if it is the only one available to them.

Option 1

Participate in an academic study-abroad experience of at least six weeks, that includes at least one course taught in French

or **Option 2**

Complete a pre-approved immersion experience. This could include a service-learning experience or internship, or the completion of the Community Engagement Scholars Program, with a focus on opportunities to engage with native French speakers.

or **Option 3**

Complete two full semesters of weekly language exchange with a native speaker through the CLA Language Centers TandemPlus program including 15 hours devoted to conversation in French. This experience must be documented through TandemPlus.

Self-assessment Instrument

Take the self-assessment and use this information to gauge your own proficiency level. It is strongly recommended that you do not attempt the ACTFL exam until the self-assessment results indicate that you may have achieved advanced-level proficiency.

Critical Reflection Essay

Submit a short essay (of 450-600 words) written in English that; (1) reflects on your French self-assessment results; (2) describes your current level of French language proficiency; (3) demonstrates how you have used your language and cultural understanding skills at the University and beyond through completion of some or all of the Additional Recommended Experiences listed below.

Achieve Advanced-Low or Higher on the ACTFL

When your self-assessment results indicate that you may be at advanced-level proficiency, you may take the ACTFL Advanced-level Exam. In order to complete your certificate, you must achieve a rating of Advanced-Low or higher in all 4 sections: speaking, writing, listening and reading. The cost for 4 sections of the ACTFL is $200. However, if you participate in the PACE Project you will be able to take the reading, listening and speaking exams at no cost and pay only for the writing exam.

Additional Recommended Experiences to Increase French-Language Proficiency

- Study abroad in a French-speaking country for at least a semester (this is highly recommended)
- Additional upper-division coursework taught in French (see the Certificate website)
- Service learning, volunteer work, or internship in a French-speaking context for at least a semester
- Participation in TandemPlus
- Spend an average of 15-20 hours per week outside of class actively using your French (reading, writing, speaking, listening)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.