



Twin Cities Campus

French Studies B.A.

French & Italian

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2021
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 35 to 57
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

When you think of French, does your mind fill with stereotypical images of culture and language? You likely know that French is spoken on 5 continents and is the sixth most-commonly spoken language in the world. Studying French and Francophone Studies at the University of Minnesota takes you far beyond the stereotypes and basics. The major in French and Francophone studies introduces students to world cultures and history, preparing them for our interconnected, global future. The program cultivates students cultural sophistication and their skills in language, communication, analysis, and argument. It opens doors, strengthens skills vital to today's careers, and helps you to think about many interesting questions and topics in ways you likely have not before.

A major in French combines beautifully with almost any other major on campus. Recent research shows that employers prefer to hire employees who have double-majored, as it often leads to more innovative thinking skills, making you more marketable. French complements many CLA majors, reinforcing the kinds of skills Liberal Arts degrees are rightly heralded for, or it can help develop parallel skills to majors in other colleges (Business, Science, Agriculture, Design), where critical thinking and communication skills can work together with analytical and practical skills developed from the other discipline. We have seen the vast majority of our majors be double majors, and go on to successful careers in international fields, as well as in education, law, medicine, business. These students choose French as a second major, rather than a minor, because it allows them to reach a higher level of language proficiency while achieving a depth of cultural understanding that is not possible in the shorter program.

Students who come into our department will quickly discover that this idea of combining disciplines is well-entrenched in our faculty and course offerings, which sets us apart from many language departments which focus more on traditional approaches to the discipline. While well-versed in traditional notions of language and culture, with admirable command of the language, its pedagogy and literatures, our faculty are deeply committed to research in fields such as film and the moving image, genocide studies, representations of the body, disability studies, gender and queer studies, migration, and more. Courses cover not only the French language and cultures of Europe, but also of Africa and North America. Elective courses reflect this variety of interests, allowing our students to develop curiosity and knowledge about a wide variety of relevant and current avenues of thought.

Some nuts and bolts: Students must complete FREN 1501/2, and at least four 3xxx-level courses totaling 12 credits, on the UMN TC campus. They can transfer a great deal of coursework from study abroad. We accept appropriate coursework (agreed upon with a departmental advisor before going abroad) from our Montpellier programs, the Senegal MSID program, and others. The majority of our majors do study abroad, if even just in a shorter-term summer program, and these experiences are almost always a life highlight.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

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

Admission Requirements

Complete the introductory 4-semester French language sequence or its equivalent. Students may declare the French Studies BA while FREN 1004 is in progress.

Students must formally declare a major within the department before completing the majority of the major elective requirements.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the [Office of Admissions website](#).

Required prerequisites

Prerequisites

These courses, or equivalent, must be taken in sequential order. In select cases, students with advanced proficiency may place out through EPT or LPE examinations.

Take 0 or more course(s) totaling 0 - 20 credit(s) from the following:

[FREN 1001](#) - Beginning French I (5.0 cr)

[FREN 1002](#) - Beginning French II (5.0 cr)

or [FREN 1022](#) - Accelerated Beginning French (5.0 cr)

[FREN 1003](#) - Intermediate French I (5.0 cr)

[FREN 1004](#) - Intermediate French II (5.0 cr)



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

Students are required to complete 4 semester(s) of French, with a grade of C-, or better, or demonstrate proficiency in the language(s) as defined by the department or college.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the French Studies BA is FREN.

Students must take at least 30 upper-division credits in the major.

At least 16 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. This includes learning abroad courses taken for resident credit.

At least 4 of the 10 upper-division FREN courses (not counting the capstone) must be taken in the Department of French and Italian at the UMN-TC campus.

Up to 18 credits of upper-division coursework from study abroad programs sponsored by or affiliated with the University of Minnesota may be counted towards the major.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in French, but not both. Any departmental major or minor may be combined with the French Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

All students must complete a capstone in at least one CLA major. The requirements for double majors completing the capstone in a different CLA major will be clearly stated. Students must also complete all major requirements in both majors to allow the additional capstone to be waived. Student completing an additional degree must complete the capstone in each degree area.

Core Courses

Take exactly 4 course(s) totaling exactly 12 credit(s) from the following:

FREN 15xx must be taken on the UMN-TC campus or through the May-term Abroad "Gateways" program sponsored by the Department.

- FREN 1501 - Gateways to French and Francophone Studies: English Only [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
or FREN 1502 - Gateways to French and Francophone Studies: Bilingual [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3015 - Advanced French Grammar and Communication (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3016 - Advanced French Composition and Communication (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3101W - Methods in French and Francophone Studies [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)

Electives

Students may not count FREN 37xx courses towards the Electives requirement.

Take exactly 7 course(s) totaling 21 or more credit(s) from the following:

Language Practice

Take 0 - 3 course(s) from the following:

- FREN 3014 - French Phonetics (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3017W - Advanced Writing in French: Genre, Style, Rhetoric [WI] (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3018 - French Oral Communication (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3022 - The Language and Culture of Business in France (3.0 cr)

Other French Electives

Take 4 - 7 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 3172 *{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 3345 - The Holocaust in France: Literature, History, Testimony (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 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)
- FREN 3661 - Francophone North America (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3850 - Topics in French and Francophone Media (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3852 - Memory in French and Francophone Cinema (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3896 - Internship in a French-Speaking Milieu (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- FREN 4993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- FREN 3662 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or FREN 3663 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Capstone

The capstone is completed in FREN 4101W, 4101V, 4109W or 4110V in the last or next-to-last semester before graduation. Research topics must be approved by course instructor. Papers are written in consultation with course instructor or other appropriate faculty. Students completing the capstone must do so on the UMN-TC campus.

Take 1 - 2 course(s) totaling 2 - 4 credit(s) from the following:

Students who double major within CLA and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major may waive the French Studies capstone, and they do not need to replace the 2 credits. Students who waive the French Studies capstone may complete the BA with a minimum of 30 upper-division credits.

•Capstone Seminar

The capstone is completed in FREN 4101W, 4101V, 4109W, 4110V, and/or ITAL 3459W, in the last or next-to-last semester before graduation. Research topics must be approved by course instructor. Papers are written in consultation with course instructor or other appropriate faculty member. Honors students writing summa theses should take a total of 4 credits of capstone by combining 4101V and 4110V in their final year.

- FREN 4101W - Capstone Seminar in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)
- or FREN 4101V - Honors Capstone Seminar in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)

•Capstone Independent Study

- FREN 4109W - Capstone Independent Study in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)
- or FREN 4110V - Honors Capstone Independent Study in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 - 4.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the Major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

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

- FREN 3101W - Methods in French and Francophone Studies [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
- FREN 3017W - Advanced Writing in French: Genre, Style, Rhetoric [WI] (3.0 cr)
- FREN 4101W - Capstone Seminar in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)
- FREN 4101V - Honors Capstone Seminar in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)
- FREN 4109W - Capstone Independent Study in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 cr)
- FREN 4110V - Honors Capstone Independent Study in French and Francophone Studies [WI] (2.0 - 4.0 cr)