



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 Spring 2017
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 6 to 8
- This certificate requires an intensive French-language immersion experience. There are 3 options for completing this requirement; (1) An academic study abroad experience of at least 6 weeks that includes at least 1 course taught in French; (2) Completion of an immersion experience preapproved by the French Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). 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; (3) Completion of 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. Since this will involve 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.
- 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: www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.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

The French Language Advanced-Level Proficiency Certificate consists of six required components: (1) pass the French LPE; (2) complete two upper-division courses taught in French with a grade of C- or higher*; (3) complete a French-language immersion experience; (4) complete the self-assessment instrument; (5) submit a critical reflection essay; (6) obtain a rating of at least Advanced-Low on all four sections of the ACTFL (speaking, writing, listening, and reading). *A note about the coursework: students have two options; (a) FREN 3016 and one pre-approved content-based course; or (b) two pre-approved 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 only 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.

Among French course offerings on campus, only courses numbered 31xx and higher will count as content-based courses, provided they meet the writing requirements indicated above. (French 3101W, Methods in French Studies, required for all majors and minors, meets the content-based course requirement, but students not completing the major/minor may opt for a course in linguistics [35xx] or culture [36xx].)

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>.



Two Upper-level Courses Taught in French

Complete two upper-division courses taught in French, for a total of 6-8 credits, with a grade of C- or higher. There are two options for completing this requirement: (1) FREN 3016 (or equivalent abroad) and one pre-approved content-based* course; (2) two pre-approved content-based* courses. *Content-based courses are defined under "Program Requirements" above.

French-language Immersion

Participate in an intensive French-language immersion experience. There are three options for completing this requirement; (1) An academic study abroad experience of at least six weeks that includes at least one course taught in French; (2) Completion of an pre-approved immersion experience; (3) Completion of 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.

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)