

FRENCH, BA

The French program at UW–Madison offers students opportunities for cultural and literary learning about the French-speaking world through dynamic, in-class experiences and extracurricular components such as the French Club (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/frenchclub/>), Pi Delta Phi (<https://www.pideltaphi.org/>) (the National French Honor Society), the French House (<http://uwfrenchhouse.org/>) (an immersion residence hall and cultural center), and with French and Francophone cultural events in and around Madison.

Students intending to major in French or complete the French certificate (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/french-italian/french-certificate/>) enter the program at the appropriate level depending on their language proficiency. If you have previous experience in the French language, please refer to Testing and Evaluation Services (<https://exams.wisc.edu/placement/uw-madison-students.php>) to register for the placement test.

The majority of UW–Madison French major or certificate students complete their requirements through a combination of courses taken on campus and abroad with a UW–Madison-sponsored program (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/french/>).

Students have the option to take a class for Honors at almost all levels. For more information, please see the department website and/or consult the undergraduate advisor (<https://frit.wisc.edu/administrative-staff/>).

For courses in French literature in translation, see the Literature in Translation (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/littrans/>) course listing.

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

Students declared in the French certificate may not be declared in the French major at the same time. French certificate students who want to switch to the French major, must cancel their French certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students pursuing a French major must complete **27 credits** beyond FRENCH 204. Only one course taught in English can count towards the French Major.¹

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		9
FRENCH 228	Intermediate Language and Culture	
FRENCH 271	Literature, Comics, and Film in French	
FRENCH 321	Medieval and Early Modern French Literature ²	
	or FRENCH 322 Modern French and Francophone Literature	
	or FRENCH 347 Medieval and Early Modern Culture	
	or FRENCH 348 Modernity Studies	
	or FRENCH 361 Study Abroad: French/Francophone Literature	
	or FRENCH 362 Study Abroad: French/Francophone Civilization	
Elective Courses		18
FRENCH 211	French Literary and Interdisciplinary Studies ¹	
FRENCH/AFRICAN 216	Modern and Contemporary Francophone Topics ¹	
FRENCH 248	Ethnic Studies in the French/Francophone World(s) ¹	
FRENCH/GEN&WS 285	Rebellious Women from the Global South ¹	

FRENCH 288	Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) ¹
FRENCH 298	Directed Study
FRENCH 299	Directed Study
FRENCH 301	Practical French Conversation
FRENCH 302	Practical French Conversation
FRENCH 311	Advanced Composition and Speaking
FRENCH 312	Advanced Writing Workshop
FRENCH/INTL BUS 313	Professional Communication and Culture in the Francophone World
FRENCH/INTL BUS 314	Contemporary Issues in Business, Government and NGOs
FRENCH 316	Study Abroad: Advanced French Language
FRENCH 321	Medieval and Early Modern French Literature
FRENCH 322	Modern French and Francophone Literature
FRENCH 325	Visual Culture in French/Francophone Studies
FRENCH 345	French Fashion and Literature from the Middle Ages to Today ¹
FRENCH 347	Medieval and Early Modern Culture
FRENCH 348	Modernity Studies
FRENCH 350	Applied French Language Studies
FRENCH 361	Study Abroad: French/Francophone Literature
FRENCH 362	Study Abroad: French/Francophone Civilization
FRENCH 420	Topics in French: Study Abroad
FRENCH 430	Readings in Medieval and Renaissance Literature
FRENCH 431	Readings in Early Modern Literature
FRENCH/AFRICAN 440	African/Francophone Film ¹
FRENCH 461	French/Francophone Literary Studies Across the Centuries
FRENCH 462	French/Francophone Cultural Studies Across the Centuries
FRENCH 464	Literature and Medicine in French-Speaking Cultures
FRENCH 465	French/Francophone Film
FRENCH 467	Aspects of Contemporary French Literature
FRENCH 567	Undergraduate Seminar in French/Francophone Literary Studies
FRENCH 568	Undergraduate Seminar in French/Francophone Cultural Studies
FRENCH 569	Critical Approaches to Literature and Culture: French and Francophone Perspectives
FRENCH 590	Introduction to Phonetics
FRENCH 630	The Age of Reason
FRENCH 631	17th-Century French Literature

FRENCH 639	17th-Century Literature
FRENCH 647	The 20th-Century French Novel
FRENCH 665	Introduction to Francophone Studies
FRENCH 672	Topics in Literature and Culture
FRENCH 681	Senior Honors Thesis
FRENCH 682	Senior Honors Thesis
FRENCH 691	Thesis
FRENCH 692	Thesis
FRENCH 698	Directed Study
FRENCH 699	Directed Study
LITTRANS 209	Masterpieces of French Literature and Culture ¹
LITTRANS 249	Literature in Translation: Nineteenth-Century French Masterpieces ¹
LITTRANS 302	What is Life? Biological Life in Literature and Culture ¹
LITTRANS 303	Topics in French Literature and Culture ¹

Total Credits **27**

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all FRENCH and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, taken in residence: (French 300 and higher are considered upper-level in the major)
- 15 credits in FRENCH taken on campus at UW–Madison

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with a French undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all FRENCH courses and all courses counting in the major
- Complete at least 8 credits, taken for Honors, beyond FRENCH 271³
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in FRENCH 681 and FRENCH 682, for a total of 6 credits⁴

FOOTNOTES

¹ Only one course taught in English may count toward the French Major.

² FRENCH 361 and FRENCH 362 are only available to students participating in a study abroad program.

³ Study abroad in France or in another French-speaking country is highly recommended, and the 8 credits taken for Honors can be fulfilled through French courses taken abroad at the appropriate level.

⁴ In certain circumstances (particularly when the student is an Honors candidate in two or more departments), two courses in literature or

cultural studies numbered 500–599 or 600–699 may be substituted for the Senior Honors Thesis.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Demonstrate that they understand and can analyze literary and non-literary texts in French representing a broad spectrum of topics, time periods, and geographical regions (interpretive communication).
2. Express themselves effectively in spoken and written French to inform, persuade, and narrate for different audiences of listeners, viewers, or readers (presentational communication).
3. Express themselves effectively in spoken and written French to share information, reactions, and opinions related to a broad spectrum of topics and texts (interpersonal communication).
4. Recognize and explain cultural artifacts, practices, and perspectives of the French-speaking world including how these cultural elements relate to literary and non-literary texts in French (cultural knowledge).
5. Demonstrate a good degree of understanding of lexical, grammatical, syntactic, and stylistic features of the French language (linguistic knowledge).
6. Demonstrate awareness of difference and diversity by comparing and contrasting culturally situated beliefs, behaviors, and norms of the French-speaking world with those found in their own culture (cross-cultural awareness).
7. Engage in a sustained fashion with the French language, its users, and cultural artifacts in and beyond the classroom, e.g., in their own community, virtual communities, and study abroad (engagement with the French language and culture).

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning,

including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
FRENCH 203	4 FRENCH 204	4
Communication A	3 FRENCH 248 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement)	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Social Science Breadth	4
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Biological Science Breadth	3
Electives	3	
	16	14

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
FRENCH 228	3 FRENCH 211	3
Quantitative Reasoning B	4 FRENCH 311	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Communication B	4
Electives	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
INTER-LS 210	1 Social Science Breadth	3
	14	16

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
FRENCH 271	3 FRENCH 321	3
FRENCH/INTL BUS 313	3 FRENCH 348	3
Science Breadth	3 Science Breadth	3
Electives	6 Electives	6
	15	15

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
FRENCH 322	3 FRENCH 465	3
FRENCH 590	3 FRENCH 347	3
Electives	9 Electives	9
	15	15

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please follow the process described on the French & Italian webpage (<https://frit.wisc.edu/academic-advising/>).

For information about academic advising including language proficiency, language placement, and retrocredits, please visit our website or schedule an appointment with the undergraduate advisor.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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La Maison Française (<http://uwfrenchhouse.org/>), a francophone (French-speaking) residence hall and cultural center, is managed by the Department of French and Italian under the direction of Anne Theobald, PhD (<https://frit.wisc.edu/staff/theobald-anne/>). Residence is open to UW-Madison students with the equivalent of a fourth-semester level of French. At least two native French graduate students reside in the house, aiding in conversation and facilitating the use of French. Most residents are Americans: prospective teachers of French, French majors, and students in other disciplines who want to speak French on a daily basis. Applications should be made well in advance.

The French House is open to the public for Wednesday dinner and Friday lunch (<https://www.uwfrenchhouse.com/dining/>) during the academic year.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The French Club (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/frenchclub/>) is a registered student organization run by students involved in the French program and open to any and all UW-Madison community members who have an interest in French language and culture. Club members are encouraged to organize and participate in cultural events on campus and in the community. Undergraduates are welcome at scholarly talks and department events on an array of subjects (see department website (<https://frit.wisc.edu/>) and the French House website (<http://uwfrenchhouse.org/>) for event details).

Pi Delta Phi (<https://www.pideltaphi.org/>) is for college and university undergraduate and graduate students. Founded at the University of California, Berkeley in 1906, Pi Delta Phi is the oldest national academic honor society for a foreign language in the United States. The aims of the Society are to recognize outstanding scholarship in the French language and Francophone literatures, to increase the knowledge

and appreciation of Americans for the cultural contributions of the French-speaking world, and to encourage and to stimulate French and francophone cultural activities. There are currently more than 400 chapters and over 75,000 members across the United States. The Pi Delta Phi chapter at UW–Madison, Rho Zeta, was founded by Mandi Schoville, MFS (<https://frit.wisc.edu/staff/mandi-schoville/>) and Anne Theobald, PhD (<https://frit.wisc.edu/staff/theobald-anne/>) in spring 2023 with the first cohort initiated in spring 2024. Students participate in activities and chapter events throughout the academic year. In order to be eligible for undergraduate nomination, UW–Madison undergraduate students must be sophomores, must have completed at least one semester of a 300-level or higher course in French, have a current minimum cumulative GPA of 3.000 and minimum French subject GPA of 3.300. A completed membership form and one-time dues for a lifetime membership are required for admission, for which students receive the Pi Delta Phi pin, certificate, and one set of graduation honor cords in blue, white, and red.