

French, BA

Learning Outcomes

At the time of graduation, majors will have reached the equivalent of the intermediate high/advanced low level on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) scale in the four areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing with a special emphasis on language, literature, and culture, or French and Arabic, depending on their track.

French majors will be able to:

- interact orally and in writing at a level sufficient for effective communication on a wide range of topics with French-speaking interlocutors from the Francophone world and across cultures;
- analyze, synthesize, engage critically, and effectively present written information and argumentation on what is heard, read, or viewed in the literatures and cultures of the Francophone world—France, North- and sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, and the French-speaking communities of North America; and
- gain knowledge on the various Francophone cultures of the world, and reflect upon and deal appropriately with their linguistic, cultural, and artistic history and diversity.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in French requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33–37 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP) credit may not be counted toward the major.

The French Language and Culture Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 4 or higher is considered to be the equivalent to FREN:3000 Third-Year French. Transfer credit may be accepted, and students are encouraged to participate in study abroad, but the last two courses in the major ordinarily must be completed at the University of Iowa. Transfer credit is evaluated on an individual basis by the faculty in charge of study abroad.

Students majoring in French complete a set of five foundation courses plus the requirements for one of two tracks: French and Arabic [p. 1] or Language, Literature, and Culture [p. 1]. Students choose a track when they declare the major (or later, but before their fourth year). The French and Arabic track is designed for students interested in combining the study of the French and Arabic languages with history, politics, and religions of Middle Eastern cultures and with a major in another area, such as political science, geography, or history. The language, literature, and culture track is designed for students with interests in language and translation, in French and Francophone literary and cultural expression, and for those with interdisciplinary interests in cinema, communication studies, history, international studies, political science, or journalism.

The BA with a major in French requires the following coursework. Students must maintain portfolios documenting their progress toward attaining the objectives of the French major.

| Requirements | Hours |
|--------------------|-------|
| Foundation Courses | 15 |
| Track Courses | 18-22 |

Foundation Courses

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|---------------|---|-------|
| All of these: | | |
| FREN:3060 | Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature | 3 |
| FREN:3300 | French Grammar | 3 |
| FREN:4007 | Topics in French Linguistics | 3 |
| FREN:4020 | Oral Expression in French II | 3 |
| One of these: | | |
| FREN:3007 | French Phonetics | 3 |
| FREN:3020 | Oral Expression in French I | 3 |

Tracks

French and Arabic Track

Requirements for the French and Arabic track include six to seven courses (22 s.h.) in addition to the foundation coursework in French. Refer to the course list under "Language, Literature, and Culture Track" for French courses that will satisfy that requirement, or to the following list for additional courses that will satisfy that requirement.

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|--|---|-------|
| Two courses in French language, literature, and culture, taught in French, with at least one numbered above 4000 | | 6 |
| Two to three courses in Arabic language beyond first year | | 10 |
| Two courses on Middle Eastern cultures (prefix FREN or ARAB), taught in French, Arabic, or English, or approved courses from other departments, such as: | | 6 |
| ARAB:2006 | Transnational Solidarities | 3-4 |
| ARAB:2012 | Modern Palestinian Literature and Culture | 3 |

Language, Literature, and Culture Track

Requirements for the language, literature, and culture track include six courses (typically 18 s.h.), at least two of which must be numbered above 4000, in addition to the foundation coursework in French. Only one of the track courses may be taught in English under the French department (prefix FREN); this restriction does not apply to courses taught in English with an additional semester hour in French.

Courses in French stylistics and textual analysis, another language, economics, political science, and/or business are recommended as adjunct electives.

Students who intend to earn licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must also complete the College of Education's Teacher Education Program (TEP), which requires education courses and student teaching (see the section titled "Teacher Licensure" that follows).

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|--|-------------------|-------|
| Six of these, with at least two numbered above 4000: | | |
| FREN:3000 | Third-Year French | 3 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| FREN:3007 | French Phonetics (if not taken as a foundation course) | 3 |
| FREN:3120 | French Civilization | 3 |
| FREN:3130 | Francophone Cultures | 3 |
| FREN:3160 | Study Abroad: Culture | 3 |
| FREN:3232 | French Literary Translation Workshop | 3 |
| FREN:3240 | Media French | 3 |
| FREN:3250 | Topics in French Studies I | 3 |
| FREN:3360 | Study Abroad: Language | 3 |
| FREN:3410 | Business French | 3 |
| FREN:4015 | Francophone Cinema (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4026 | French Women Writers (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4070 | Introduction to the Study of Meaning (taught in English) | 3 |
| FREN:4080 | Post-Colonial Literature in France | 3 |
| FREN:4090 | Quebec Literature | 3 |
| FREN:4100 | French Cinema (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4110 | Francophone Studies: Literature and the Arts | 3 |
| FREN:4210 | Slavery Museums, Memorials, and Statues in the United States, Europe, and the Global South (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4433 | France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944 (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4520 | Versailles Under the Sun King (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4540 | Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema (taught in English) | 3-4 |
| FREN:4750 | Topics in French Studies II | 3 |

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must have a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 for work undertaken in the department and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33.

To graduate with honors in the major, departmental honors students must register for FREN:4995 Honors Research and

Thesis or one honors-designated course numbered above 4000. They must complete an honors thesis or the equivalent (e.g., translation, comparative stylistics, cultural studies, or research) in French and must present their work to a faculty committee.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the French major.

Career Advancement

Students majoring in French may combine their studies with courses in education to prepare for jobs in high school teaching. They may go on to graduate study in areas such as French, comparative literature, and other interdisciplinary areas as preparation for college-level teaching. They also may combine other skills and studies with their major in French to prepare for challenging career opportunities in international government, business, finance, travel, communications, and other fields where the knowledge of more than one language is essential.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the third semester begins: competence in first-year French.

Before the fifth semester begins: second-year French (FREN:2002 Intermediate French II).

Before the seventh semester begins: three of the four requirements for the major, FREN:3007 French Phonetics or FREN:3020 Oral Expression in French I, FREN:3060 Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature, FREN:3300 French Grammar, one or two other courses in the major, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: FREN:4020 Oral Expression in French II and three more courses in the major; for the French language track, FREN:3410 Business French and FREN:4007 Topics in French Linguistics.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

French, BA

- French and Arabic Track [p. 3]
- Language, Literature, and Culture Track [p. 4]

French and Arabic Track

| Course | Title | Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| Academic Career | | |
| Any Semester | | |
| GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a | | |
| Hours | | 0 |
| First Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| FREN:1001 | Elementary French I ^{b, c} | 5 |
| ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 2 |
| CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2 |
| Hours | | 15-16 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:1002 | Elementary French II ^{b, c} | 5 |
| ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4 |
| GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^d | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 1 |
| Hours | | 15-16 |
| Second Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| ARAB:1001 | Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I ^f | 5 |
| FREN:2001 | Intermediate French I ^{b, c} | 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^d | | 3 |
| Hours | | 16 |
| Spring | | |
| ARAB:1002 | Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II ^f | 5 |
| FREN:2002 | Intermediate French II ^{b, c} | 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^d | | 4 |
| Hours | | 17 |
| Third Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| FREN:3020 or FREN:3007 | Oral Expression in French I or French Phonetics | 3 |
| FREN:3060 | Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature | 3 |
| FREN:3300 | French Grammar | 3 |
| Major: Arabic language course (beyond first year) ^g | | 3 - 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d | | 3 |
| Hours | | 15-17 |
| Spring | | |
| ARAB:2006 | Transnational Solidarities ^g | 3 |
| FREN:4020 or FREN:4007 | Oral Expression in French II or Topics in French Linguistics | 3 |
| Major: Arabic language course (beyond first year) ^g | | 3 - 5 |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| Major: French language, literature, and culture course (taught in French) ^g | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Hours | | 15-17 |

Fourth Year

| Fall | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| ARAB:2012 | Modern Palestinian Literature and Culture ^g | 3 |
| Major: Arabic language course (beyond first year, if needed) or elective course ^{e, g} | | 3 - 5 |
| Major: French language, literature, and culture course (taught in French, numbered above 4000) ^g | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Hours | | 15-17 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:4007 or FREN:4020 | Topics in French Linguistics or Oral Expression in French II | 3 |
| GE: Social Sciences ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^h | | |
| Hours | | 15 |
| Total Hours | | 123-131 |

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b FREN:1001, FREN:1002, FREN:2001, and FREN:2002 do not count for credit toward the major. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.

c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

d GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

f ARAB:1001 and ARAB:1002 do not count for credit toward the major.

g Requirements for the French and Arabic track include six to seven track courses (22 s.h.) in addition to the foundation coursework in French.

h Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

Language, Literature, and Culture Track

| Course | Title | Hours |
|---|---|--------------|
| Academic Career | | |
| Any Semester | | |
| GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a | | |
| Hours | | 0 |
| First Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| FREN:1001 | Elementary French I ^{b, c} | 5 |
| RHET:1030 | Rhetoric | 3 - 4 |
| or ENGL:1200 | or The Interpretation of Literature | |
| GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 2 |
| CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2 |
| Hours | | 15-16 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:1002 | Elementary French II ^{b, c} | 5 |
| ENGL:1200 | The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4 |
| or RHET:1030 | or Rhetoric | |
| GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^d | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 1 |
| Hours | | 15-16 |
| Second Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| FREN:2001 | Intermediate French I ^{b, c} | 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 1 |
| Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:2002 | Intermediate French II ^{b, c} | 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d | | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^d | | 4 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Hours | | 15 |
| Third Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| FREN:3007 | French Phonetics | 3 |
| or FREN:3020 | or Oral Expression in French I | |
| FREN:3060 | Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature | 3 |
| FREN:3300 | French Grammar | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d | | 3 |
| Elective course ^e | | 3 |
| Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:4020 | Oral Expression in French II | 3 |
| or FREN:4007 | or Topics in French Linguistics | |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Hours | | 15-17 |
| Fourth Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course (numbered above 4000) ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| GE: Social Sciences ^d | 3 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Hours | | 15-18 |
| Spring | | |
| FREN:4020 | Oral Expression in French II | 3 |
| or FREN:4007 | or Topics in French Linguistics | |
| Major: language, literature, and culture track course (numbered above 4000) ^f | 3 - 4 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Elective course ^e | 3 | |
| Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^g | | |
| Hours | | 15-16 |
| Total Hours | | 120-128 |

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

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e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

- f Requirements for the language, literature, and culture track include six courses (typically 18 s.h.), at least two of which must be numbered above 4000, in addition to the foundation coursework in French. Only one of the track courses may be taught in English under the French department (prefix FREN); this restriction does not apply to courses taught in English with an additional semester in French.
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