

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 of 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 33–38 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 must also 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 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 must ordinarily 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 one of two tracks: language, literature, and culture or French and Arabic.

The language, literature, and culture track of the French major 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 French and Arabic track is designed for students interested in combining the study of the French and Arabic languages with the history, politics, and religions of Middle Eastern cultures.

Language, Literature, and Culture Track Requirements

Students in the language, literature, and culture track complete a set of three lower-level courses, four foundation courses, and four elective courses (typically 33–37 s.h.).

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).

Lower-Level Courses

If students place out of FREN:2001 or FREN:2002, they must take an additional 3 s.h. course numbered 3000–4999 from the electives list; see the section "Language, Literature, and Culture Courses" that follows. Students who place out of both courses must take two additional electives numbered 3000–4999.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
FREN:2001	Intermediate French I	4
FREN:2002	Intermediate French II	4
One French course (prefix FREN) numbered 1000–2999 except FREN:1001, FREN:1002, and FREN:1040; may be taught in English		3

Language, Literature, and Culture 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

Language, Literature, and Culture Elective Courses

Students complete at least four elective courses (12–16 s.h.). At least two of the elective courses must be numbered above 4000; this requirement is in addition to the 4000-level foundation coursework in French. Only one of the elective courses may be in the French subject area (prefix FREN) taught in English; 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 additional coursework outside the major.

Course #	Title	Hours
Four of these, with at least two numbered 4000 or above:		
FREN:3000	Third-Year French	3
FREN:3020	Oral Expression in French I	3
FREN:3007	French Phonetics	3
FREN:3120	French Civilization	3
FREN:3160	Study Abroad: Culture	3
FREN:3232	French Literary Translation Workshop	3
FREN:3240	Media French	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

French and Arabic Track

Students in the French and Arabic track complete five foundation courses and six or seven elective courses (typically 37-38 s.h.).

French and Arabic 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

French and Arabic Elective Courses

Elective requirements include six to seven courses (22-23 s.h.) in addition to the foundation coursework in French. Only one of the elective courses may be in the French subject area (prefix FREN) taught in English; this restriction does not apply to courses taught in English with an additional semester hour in French or Arabic.

French and Arabic Electives: Language, Literature, and Culture

Students complete two courses from the language, literature and culture electives; see the preceding section titled "Language, Literature, and Culture Elective Courses" for courses that may be used for this area. At least one of these elective courses must be numbered 4000 or above.

French and Arabic Electives: Arabic Language

Students complete one of the following sequences for a total of 9-11 s.h.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these sets of courses:		
ARAB:2001- ARAB:2002	Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I-II	10
ARAB:2002- ARAB:3011- ARAB:3012	Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II - Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I - Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II	11
Or this set of courses:		
ARAB:3011- ARAB:3012	Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I-II	6
A third Arabic course (prefix ARAB) selected in consultation with faculty		3

French and Arabic Electives: Middle Eastern Cultures

Students complete two courses on Middle Eastern cultures. These courses may be in the subject of French (prefix FREN) or Arabic (prefix ARAB) and taught in French, Arabic, or English; courses from other departments may also be approved. The following courses count toward this requirement without additional approval.

Course #	Title	Hours
ARAB:2006	Transnational Solidarities	3-4
ARAB:2012	Modern Palestinian Literature and Culture	3
ARAB:3005	Culture and Resistance: The Modern Middle East	3-4

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 may also 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: two of the four requirements for the major, 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: one elective numbered 4000 or above and three more courses in the major.

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.

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French and Arabic Track

This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.

Language, Literature, and Culture Track

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