

# French

Learning French means learning to communicate in French in a variety of social and professional settings. Students learn about the culture, language, history, literature, and media of the 35 French-speaking countries that make up the francophone world. Students develop their language proficiency—listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills—in interactive classroom settings, in our individualized instruction program, and in study abroad settings in France and Canada. Courses throughout the undergraduate curriculum are enriched and enhanced by the use of media and Internet resources such as online newspapers, magazines, YouTube, music CDs and videos, television programs, and through videoconferencing with French speakers around the world. As students progress, they choose from a variety of intermediate- and advanced-level language, culture, literature and history courses. Students are encouraged to study abroad—either through a summer program, a quarter-long stay or a year-long study abroad experience.

## Pursuing French at Ohio State

The more high school French taken the better, because students will take a placement test in French once admitted to the university. Students who place above 100-level French courses save themselves time and money.

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in French within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor in the Department of French and Italian and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

## French Requirements

A major in French consists of no fewer than 50 hours of French courses at the 400 level or above.

## French major and minor options

The undergraduate program in French is designed to give students the opportunity to tailor their major and minor to their personal interests and their professional goals and objectives. Students majoring in French can choose among four options: language and literature, language and culture, French for the professions, and French studies. Options for minors include language and linguistics, culture and film, literature, French for the professions, and French studies.

## Core courses

These include French 101 to 104 and French 201 or 206. Students may test out of one or more of these courses on the placement test. These courses do not apply toward the major.

## Required major courses

Each major track in French has required and elective major courses. Typically, students are required to take French 401, French 403, and French 601 to provide a solid base in the language.

## Elective major courses

The remaining courses in the major are chosen by the student from among a variety of departmental offerings in language, literature, culture, and film courses. With advisor approval, students may also include 5 hours from a course outside the department that relates to the study of French.

Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 181 hours are required by the College of the Arts and Sciences for graduation.

Success in French requires a commitment to daily preparation and a willingness on the part of the student to use the opportunities provided in class to speak the language. In addition, students should begin considering and planning for a study abroad program as soon as they have decided to major in French. Students interested in studying abroad during their junior or senior year can get specific information about various programs from the study abroad advisor in the Department of French and Italian.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to use their French outside of the classroom. At Ohio State, students can participate in Café +, a French conversation table in Hagerty Hall's Crane Café; they can join in the activities of the French Club; and they can learn about careers for foreign languages at the Annual Career Night. Students are encouraged to study abroad—either for the summer, a quarter or two, or an academic year. Programs are offered in France (e.g., Dijon, Nantes, Paris) or in Quebec (Université Laval). Students are encouraged to work with the department and the Office of International Affairs to set up service or business internships either here or abroad.

Additional opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

## Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate

**For more information, check these web sites:**

**French:** [frit.osu.edu](http://frit.osu.edu)

**Arts and Humanities:** [artsandhumanities.osu.edu](http://artsandhumanities.osu.edu)

**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)

**Multicultural Center:** [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)

**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample\*

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in French. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents the language and literature track in French. Consult the departmental web site, [frit.osu.edu](http://frit.osu.edu), for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:	
Intermediate French**	10
Introduction to Reading of Literary and Cultural Texts	5
GEC courses	30
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>47</b>

Sophomore Year:	
French Grammar Review	5
Intermediate French Composition	3
Intermediate French Conversation	3
Introduction to the Study of Contemporary French Culture	5
17th or 18th Century Literature	5
GEC courses	25
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>46</b>

Junior Year:	
Advanced Spoken and Written French	3
Francophone Literature	5
Modern French Syntax	5
19th or 20th Century Literature	5
GEC courses	15
Electives	11
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>44</b>

Senior Year:	
Medieval or 16th Century Literature	5
Literature of the Francophone World	5
La Civilisation Francaise Contemporaine	5
GEC courses	5
Electives	15
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>35</b>

\*Many more literature, language, and culture courses are available than shown here. In addition, study abroad programs may be taken for up to 45 hours of credit toward the French major. In other words, the student would receive credit at Ohio State for courses taken overseas that are comparable to the courses offered at Ohio State.

\*\*Assumes student tested out of two beginning level French courses. 10 hours of EM credit would be applied toward the 181 credit hours required for graduation.

students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Prospects in French

French is applicable in a variety of settings in the United States and abroad. Mastery of French allows students to consider careers in education, government, business, print and electronic media, scientific and medical research, and trade and tourism industries. Many employers are eager to hire graduates who are fluent in French because their businesses involve French speakers.

Careers where French is the primary emphasis include teaching French at all levels; interpreting and translating for the United Nations, government, or for private and public organizations; and a variety of positions in the travel and tourism industry at home or abroad such as flight attendant, travel agent, and tour guide. Careers where proficiency in French is a good secondary tool include banking and finance, business, sales, export purchasing, foreign market analysis, journalism, foreign correspondence, science and research, library science, hotel management, publishing, radio broadcasting, or teaching English in a French-speaking country to employees in corporations abroad.

Ohio State graduates with French degrees have chosen jobs such as international desk at Bank One, buyer for Unishops Inc., trade specialist for the Ohio Department of Development, French teacher in Columbus Public Schools, and director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

## More About French

Students who major or minor in French can choose a track that meets their personal and career interests. For students interested in pursuing a career in business, the French for the professions major or minor track provides a background in French business practices and culture. The literature/language track is appealing to students who enjoy literature and to those contemplating graduate school in French. Students interested in teaching at the secondary level and international studies students often find the culture/language track useful because of its concentration on French and francophone cultures. The French Studies track allows students to put together a more individualized program of study combining literature, language, and culture. The department encourages students to work with faculty to develop research projects and to participate in the research forums offered at both the college and university levels.

## Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting [undergrad.osu.edu/apply.html](http://undergrad.osu.edu/apply.html). Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or [askabuckeye@osu.edu](mailto:askabuckeye@osu.edu) to have an application mailed.

**Revised September 2009.** For the most up-to-date information on the French program, please visit [frit.osu.edu](http://frit.osu.edu).

## Contact information:

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