

School of Arts and Sciences

FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu

A major in French Language and Literature gives students at the University of Pittsburgh the opportunity to study in detail a foreign language and to acquire an education in a literary and cultural tradition central to the humanities. Studying French Language and Literature prepares students for graduate study in law and international affairs, advanced work in the humanities, and careers in business, governmental service and opportunities to study abroad. Students can also combine a major in French Language and Literature with a second major in a field such as political science, history, biology, or economics. Students who choose to study grammar, linguistics, rhetoric, literature and film of the Francophone world will acquire an invaluable technical resource and in-depth knowledge of a diverse and foundational intellectual tradition. For more information on a major in French Languages and Literatures, please visit our website.

French Undergraduate Curriculum

Students majoring in French Language and Literature may choose courses from three areas: language, literature, and civilization. Some students prefer to concentrate in one or two of these areas, but most students find that a combination of courses from all three areas is essential for a balanced program. Students should also consult with their advisor to select appropriate courses in other departments that complement this department's offerings.

Requirements for French Major

Majors in French must have completed two years of college work or the equivalent before moving into core courses. The major in French consists of at least 31 credits above the intermediate-course level (FR 0001-0004 do not count toward the major). Once the basic requirements are met, students will, in consultation with their advisor, design a program that corresponds to their needs, but they must take an additional 15 credits at the 1000-level. The basic courses include:

- FR 0020 Introduction to Civilization
This course is designed to lead you to a better understanding of France today. Particular attention will be paid to the perceptions the French have of themselves and to the major aspects of contemporary French life and society: values and behavior, education, family life, social groups, political/economic systems and leisure.
- FR 0021 Approaches to French Literature
The goal of this course is to illustrate ways of looking at literary texts. You will examine plays, short prose works and poems focusing on textual elements such as narrative techniques, characterization, societal factors and language.
- FR 0027 The French Atlantic
This course is designed to give you a historical perspective on the French presence in the Americas, with particular emphasis on the period that ranges from early 16th century to the early 19th century. We will also continue to develop your skills in reading, analyzing and writing about literary and historical texts.
- FR 0055 French Conversation
This course is designed to help students already familiar with the basic grammatical structure of French to improve their facility in oral expression.
- FR 0056 Written French I
This course is designed to promote the development of the writing skill in French by using a writing-as-process approach.



- FR 0058 Advanced French Conversation
This is a more advanced conversation course for students who wish to maintain or improve their command of the spoken language.
- Five 1000-level classes
** Majors are expected to take one credit of FR 0058, Advanced French Conversation, but they may take two additional credits of the course as a non-major elective.*

For more information about the French major, contact:

Prof. Roberta Hatcher
1328 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6260
or

Prof. Kirsten Fudeman
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412-624-6223
or

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Requirements for Departmental Honors in French Language and Literature

To earn departmental honors, students must major in French Language and Literature, demonstrate superior performance in departmental courses, and be enrolled in 1000-level French Language and Literature courses preferably no later than the first term of the junior year. Selection of honors candidates takes place only during the second term of the junior year. During the senior year, two appropriate sequential courses are chosen in consultation with the major advisor, and a research paper must be completed. You also must defend the paper before a faculty committee. Honors are determined by the quality of the paper and defense as well as the cumulative grades in all departmental courses counting toward the major.

Related Area

School of Arts and Sciences (A&S) requires 12 credits in a related area that may be chosen from the humanities and social sciences. The areas of foreign languages, linguistics, English, history, philosophy, and history of art and architecture are especially recommended for French Language and Literature majors.

Language Study

Reading competency in at least one other language is recommended for students planning to go on to graduate school in French Language and Literature.

For more information about other majors or programs, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
4227 Fifth Avenue, Alumni Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6601
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

French Club

This student club fosters events related to the area of the French language, literature and culture. The group also aims to improve relations among American students and French natives through direct cultural exchanges and to promote the learning and understanding of both cultures. Some of their activities include French films with English subtitles, speakers, sightseeing, studying abroad in Francophone countries, cultural events, tutoring and fundraising.

Alliance Francaise

The department is home to the Pittsburgh branch of the Alliance Francaise, an international organization dedicated to the promotion of the French language and Francophone culture. Students benefit from this alliance in many ways.

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. The University of Pittsburgh encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity (almost 5 percent of Pitt students study abroad compared with 1.3 percent, nationally). Study abroad will not only distinguish you when you enter the job market or pursue graduate study, but also help broaden your experience of the world beyond your own country's borders, giving you an appreciation of other cultures and peoples while allowing you to earn credits toward your degree. Scholarships are available, and financial aid is applicable.

Both departments sponsor summer programs in France. Those programs are:

Pitt in France

The French department's summer program will take you to Nantes, France. The program has two components: five weeks in Nantes and an optional two-week extension in Paris. Nantes is a prosperous seaport as well as a thriving commercial and technological center. As part of the program, you will take two classes, Intermediate or Advanced French and French Culture: Exploring the Breton Region. The optional two weeks in Paris will provide you with the opportunity to study French language and culture, art history and history of architecture in this dynamic capital city. While in Nantes, you will stay with French families, but while in Paris you will stay in hotels.

Certificate Programs

Certificate programs allow students to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to their major. They consist of eighteen to twenty-four credits of coursework and in many cases can be used to fulfill the "related area" requirement of the A&S degree. Certificate programs in Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, Russian and East European Studies, and West European Studies are offered through the **University Center for International Studies (UCIS)** and are designated by the U.S. Department of Education as among the best of their kind for research, teaching, and public service. Other UCIS certificate programs include Africana, European Union, and Global Studies. Certificate programs are also available in American Sign Language, Children's Literature, Conceptual Foundations of Medicine, Film Studies, Geographic Information Systems, German Language, Historic Preservation, History and Philosophy of Science, International Engineering Studies, Jewish Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Professional and Public Writing, Structural Engineering for Architectural Studies majors, Photonics, Professional Translation, and Women's Studies.

