

What about a major in...?

# French Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## What is French Studies?

The French Studies major includes courses in three areas in which students may concentrate: linguistics, literature, and culture. Courses in language and linguistics include history of the French language, structure of the language, sociolinguistics, phonetics, conversation, and business French. Courses in literature and culture focus on topics and problems in three broad historical periods: the Middle Ages and Renaissance, early modern France, and modern and contemporary France. A number of courses focus on Francophone literature from Africa, the Caribbean, and Quebec. Courses in French cinema are also offered. Many students combine a French studies major with another major, or choose to minor in French studies. The department offers selected courses in English for students who have not mastered French but want to study France and the French-speaking world.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “Undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare a French Studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a French Studies major, attend a major declaration session with the French and Italian Director of Undergraduate Studies to complete a Major Program form. Please bring an unofficial transcript to this meeting.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community for information on the new major’s declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in French Studies?

### Skills

French Studies majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Strong cultural knowledge and understanding
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

### Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, recruiting, international business
- Education—teaching, research, student affairs

## For more information:

### About the French Studies major:

Undergraduate Advising  
351A Folwell  
(612) 624-0368  
<http://frit.umn.edu/>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Languages and Mathematics Student Community  
114 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7540  
<http://langmath.class.umn.edu>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>  
[mlk@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:mlk@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu](http://www.cclc.umn.edu)  
[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.honors.class.umn.edu/](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/)  
[honors@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

- Government—public information, campaigns, policy, elected official
- Social services—social work, therapy, ESL instruction
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
- Law—litigation, advocacy, lobbying

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

## **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**