

# French

Many exciting opportunities are available at NMU for students studying French. While on campus, students can join the French Club, All Nations Club, or take part in department-sponsored events. But why limit yourself to campus? You can study abroad in France, Morocco, or another country in the Francophone world. French majors are strongly encouraged to complete a pre-approved study, internship, or work experience in a French-speaking country. Courses taken abroad can count toward the major, with departmental approval. The Bachelor's in French is an interdisciplinary major that encompasses the richness of the French and Francophone world and offers an intellectually diverse program that includes literature, culture, film, art, and philosophy. French courses fulfill a number of General Education requirements. A student can earn a second major in French with only 36 credits, which is a useful addition to any major at NMU. Double majoring in French provides a solid portfolio for national and international careers as well as for graduate studies.

## Additional Considerations

Many French majors also double-major. Some popular major pairings include Biology and Environmental Studies (especially for students who wish to complete field work in the Caribbean or French-speaking Africa), English (especially for students interested in graduate school or who want to study literature in the original language), International Studies (especially for students who plan to study abroad in a French-speaking country), just to name a few.

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and cover letter. In the meantime, we highly recommend that you study abroad. A study abroad experience stands out to future employers because it demonstrates your adaptability and ability to engage with people from diverse backgrounds. A professionally-related internship, membership in the French Club (and/or serving as an officer of the club), and work as a French tutor in the Language Resource Center are ways to develop your skills, gain experience, and enhance your resume. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

### Required Courses in Major: Standard Track

FR201	Intermediate French I (4 cr.)
FR202	Intermediate French II (4 cr.)
FR300	Reading and Writing (4 cr.)
FR400	Advanced French Composition and Grammar (4 cr.)
<i>French Electives: 102 &amp; 300 or 400 level (20 cr.)</i>	
LG499	Grad Assessment for Language Majors

### Required Courses in Major: Fast Track

FR200	Fast-Track French (4 cr.)
FR201	Intermediate French Advanced Placement Credit (4 cr.)
FR202	Intermediate French II (4 cr.)
FR300	Reading and Writing (4 cr.)
FR400	Advanced French Composition and Grammar (4 cr.)
<i>French Electives: 300 or 400 Level (16 cr.)</i>	
LG 499	Graduation Assessment for Language Majors

A minor is not required but is highly recommended (20 cr.)

## Job Outlook

Jobs in need of skills and competencies that are acquired while studying French are varied both in terms of specialty and salary. Examples of potential careers are listed on this brochure.

## Skills and Competencies

The multinational tech firm Google surveyed its work force and many of the top characteristics of Google employees are skills acquired in the French language, literature, and culture classrooms. Those abilities include:

1. Being a good coach, having empathy, and being supportive.
2. Communicating and listening well.
3. Possessing insights into others (including others' different values and points of view).
4. Being a good critical thinker and problem solver.
5. Being able to make connections across complex ideas.

The French Program at NMU emphasizes aptitude in cultural diversity, communication, critical thinking, reading, and writing, thus providing students with marketable and practical skills regardless of career path. Students learn to gauge nuanced cultural differences and to communicate effectively with people of different backgrounds, making them ready to navigate today's diverse professional environments. Students develop critical thinking, leading them to approach difficult and abstract challenges with creativity and confidence. Unlike most other specialties, students in the French program learn about international customs, attitudes, politics, history, world views and artistic contributions of French and Francophone people in 28 countries across 5 continents.

French is a global language, the second most frequently taught language in the world next to English. Along with English, French is the official working language in the United Nations, International Labor Bureau, International Olympic Committee, Council of Europe, European Community, Universal Postal Union, International Red Cross, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNESCO, and NATO. French is the dominant working language at the European Court of Justice, European Tribunal of First Instance, and Press Room at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

# Potential Careers

A second major in French benefits students for employment in the following careers.

Banking

Engineering

Environment Preservation

Fiber Optics

Finance

Genetics

Government (State, Defense, and Diplomacy)

Hotel Management and Hospitality

International Trade

Medicine (Alzheimer's, Doctors w/o Borders)

Nanotechnology (Minatec Center in Grenoble)

Nuclear Energy

Optoelectronics (conduct and detection of -  
light)

Reconstructive Surgery

Tourism

Video Gaming (Activision Blizzard and Ubisoft)

Voice Compression

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Languages, Literatures & International Studies  
145 Whitman  
906-227-2940  
[www.nmu.edu/languages](http://www.nmu.edu/languages)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

French Club

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:

[www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org) -Modern Language Association  
[www.aifs.org](http://www.aifs.org) -American Institute for Foreign Study  
[www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org)--American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
[www.frenchteachers.org](http://www.frenchteachers.org)--American Association of Teachers of French  
[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)--U.S. Department of State



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

# French

