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**MINNESOTA STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
MANKATO

## WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: FRENCH

*College of Humanities and Social Sciences*

### OVERVIEW

More than 300 million people speak French on all five continents. It is also the most popular second language after English, and the third-most widely spoken language in the United States. French majors and minors learn not only to communicate correctly and effectively in French, but also to understand and appreciate the diverse cultural perspectives and practices of French-speaking populations. In addition to helping students select classes, program faculty advise and mentor those applying to study abroad programs, internships, jobs, and graduate school.

Students will gain an understanding of French cultures, literature and history that will help give students an edge when looking for job opportunities that are based in or do business with other companies in French-speaking nations.

### DEGREES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Degrees:

French, Bachelor of Arts (BA)  
French, Bachelor of Science (BS)  
French Teaching, Bachelor of Science (BS)  
French, Minor  
French, Master of Science (MS)  
French Education, Master of Science (MS)

#### Careers:

Most students who choose to major in a language offered at Minnesota State University, Mankato are double majors in other fields, including Communications Studies, Business, International Relations, Computer Science, the Humanities and many more. In many cases, they have chosen to do so because their future professional or academic plans include goals that require advanced linguistic and cultural proficiency.

The French language is widely spoken in countries and regions on all continents, including Antarctica. It is actively used in technological, cultural, literary, and scientific fields and is usually one of the official languages of communication for international organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Nations.

In other words, you can do just about anything and go just about anywhere with a French degree: You are limited only by your imagination and ambition!

### QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

#### Accreditation:

CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation).

#### Faculty:

The Department of World Languages and Cultures has eight full-time faculty with degrees from major universities in the United States and Europe. The number of graduate assistants teaching classes varies depending on course level and language.

Faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures are teachers and active scholars in their specialty areas. They serve as mentors of students participating in the Undergraduate Research Conference, one of the largest conferences of its kind in the U.S. They serve on university committees and are active in university shared governance. World Languages and Cultures faculty are sponsors of student organizations such as the French, German, Scandinavian, and Spanish clubs; they advise students on study abroad and career planning and mentor students in graduate programs. The department sponsors two language honor societies.

Our faculty have received Fulbright grants, faculty research grants, faculty improvement grants, and teaching awards. Faculty publications include books, articles, on-line publications, translations, videos, and electronic media.

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

#### Faculty/Student Ratio:

The average is 1:17, which varies according to program and level.

#### Specialized Facilities:

The Global Learning Lab is a state-of-the-art language laboratory. Using specialized software, hardware, and networked storage, instructors can create assignments that give students opportunities to work individually, in pairs or small groups, or as an entire class. The lab is also equipped with multiple projectors and a variety of media players, allowing for dynamic and effective classroom presentations and other activities.

Our main classrooms in Armstrong Hall have modern, configurable furniture layouts, as well as large Internet-connected touchscreen monitors, document cameras, and all-region Blu-Ray players. In some cases, rooms are also outfitted with tablet computers and other tools to further enhance students' classroom experience.

#### Study Abroad:

All students are encouraged to travel and study in countries where their second language is spoken. The Department of World Languages and Cultures has programs in Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. Minnesota State Mankato collaborates with exchange programs throughout the world. Study abroad enhances

student proficiency in language and promotes cultural understanding and sensitivity to cultural difference.

**Scholarships:**

The department awards scholarships to returning students based on academic merit and need. Some of those scholarships focus on support for study abroad opportunities.

**Other Opportunities:**

The Department collaborates with local schools in providing clinical experiences and internships for pre-service teachers.

The Department has active language clubs (French, German, Scandinavian, Spanish) and students have the opportunity to get engaged in community and university activities that allow them to use their language and understanding of culture. Some activities include film nights, collaboration with the Hispanic-Latino Conference, the International Festival, conference planning and participation, volunteer service programs in the community and fundraising for club activities.

**PLACEMENT EXAM**

Students interested in studying a language will need to take a placement exam to determine which courses they would be eligible to register for. High-school language experience or previous college level language courses prepare students for placement in our programs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Department of World Languages and Cultures**

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**Program Chair**

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**SAMPLE FOUR YEAR CURRICULUM (FRENCH, BA & BS)**

<b>Skills:</b> <i>(Students must complete all four courses)</i> FREN 302W Advanced French Composition FREN 323 French Phonetics and Applied Linguistics FREN 366 Oral Communication FREN 404 French Syntax	<b>Literature:</b> <i>(Students must complete at least two courses)</i> FREN 350 Introduction to French Literature FREN 420 French Seminar FREN 432 French Literature I FREN 442 French Literature II FREN 452 French Literature III
<b>Civilization:</b> <i>(Students must complete one course)</i> FREN 305 France Today FREN 402 French Civilization	<b>Major Electives:</b> Additional credits not required for the major and not completed as part of the Intermediate sequence may be selected from a pre-approved list of electives (see current bulletin).
<b>Required Minor:</b>	
Students pursuing a degree in French must also minor in another field. Popular choices are other languages, Communications Studies, Marketing, Accounting, Art, and History. Please note that this requirement does not apply to double majors.	
Students who begin their French studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato at the 100 or 200 level may count credits from FREN 201 and FREN 202 toward the total credits required for the French major, but these credits will not replace any specific program requirements listed above.	
Students may be allowed to substitute other courses for the standard requirements listed above. Often, this will occur when a student chooses to participate in a study abroad program, when a special one-time course is offered, or when a motivated student chooses to pursue an independent study with a program faculty member.	
<b>French, BS in Teaching</b>	
<b>Additional Courses:</b> Students pursuing a BS in Teaching degree are required to take four teaching methods courses taught by World Languages and Cultures Department faculty. These courses provide instruction in both the theoretical framework and practical implementation of language instruction and acquisition in the classroom.  WLC 460 Methods of Teaching Modern Language WLC 461 Applied Modern Language Teaching Methods WLC 462 Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) Methods WLC 463 Applied (FLES) Methods	<b>Additional Requirements:</b> While there is no required minor for this version of the French BS, students do need to complete an additional major course of study in Professional Education. For details, please see the Secondary Education section of the current Undergraduate Bulletin.  Students selecting this option must also demonstrate an intermediate-high level speaking proficiency as defined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages or equivalent. Also required are firsthand experiences with the target cultures or their equivalent.

For additional information about course requirements, please visit [hss.mnsu.edu/french](http://hss.mnsu.edu/french)

08/2021



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(Click on Resources and then Graduate Statistics)