FRENCH, PH.D.

The M.A. and Ph.D. programs in French offer a first-rate faculty in all the areas of French and Francophone literature and culture. The program emphasizes broad coverage as well as specialization, and is organized so as to take advantage of the quality and range of the faculty. A Wisconsin Ph.D. has the ability to teach not only a very focused topic of research, but also much of the French literary tradition.

The French graduate program offers a wide array of courses and seminars each semester, providing a fairly even distribution across the various literary periods in most academic years. Courses typically meet two or three times a week and are quite broad in focus, generally exploring well-defined periods or genres, while seminars are held once a week for two hours and take up narrower topics in greater depth. Both the offerings and the requirements of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs are designed to give students not only the tools necessary for specialization, but also an excellent knowledge of these extremely rich literary traditions.

Strong emphasis is placed on the practice of the language. French is the usual language of instruction in graduate courses and seminars. The department offers possibilities for international stay through exchange programs and further promotes the use of French through lectures, films, theater, and events at the French House.

The French Ph.D. program has a fine job placement record. Its students' solid foundation in the French and Francophone literary tradition is increasingly rare among North American literature programs, as is the extensive training students receive in language pedagogy.

ADMISSIONS

Our graduate program offers training for teaching and research in all areas of French and Francophone literature and literary history, in critical theory, film, gender and queer studies, romance philology, and foreign language pedagogy. Our large and varied faculty teach graduate courses in all areas and at regular intervals. Consequently, students for the M.A. degree can fulfill course requirements in any given two-year period, and candidates for the Ph.D. can complete course requirements. Please check the program website for the Ph.D. details within two years of obtaining their M.A. Our program is designed to allow well-qualified students to complete the M.A. in three semesters, and all other requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation in four more semesters. Applicants for the M.A. or Ph.D. in French must submit all application materials by December 20.

The Graduate School sets minimum requirements for admissions. (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements).

Graduate School Application
Please refer to the following links:

- Consult the Graduate School website for complete information about graduate education opportunities at UW-Madison. This site is especially helpful in understanding Admissions Requirements developing a Timeline for application.
- You will need to list three people who will write letters of recommendation for you. They should be in faculty or permanent academic staff positions. Since the Graduate School will contact your recommenders directly via email once you have completed your online application, you should be sure to contact each recommender at least a month prior to when the letter of recommendation is needed to let them know that they will be contacted directly by the Graduate School.
- Submit the on-line Graduate School Application for Admission and pay the application fee.
- GRE (optional) institution code 1846 for UW-Madison
- Non-native English speakers must also submit results for the TOEFL or MELAB exams. Please note that the Graduate School requires that these scores be no older than 2 years old. This is calculated from the start of the term for which you are applying. NOT the date on which we receive your application.

Materials to be sent to the Department:

- TA/Fellowship Application: To be considered for teaching assistantship or fellowship support, you must submit to the department a document listing all relevant experience since you began studying French. There is no specific application form—it is a document, much like a CV, that you put together yourself. Include travel, study, or residence abroad. For teaching experience, be specific about subject, level, actual classroom hours/week, and age of students. Also indicate undergraduate and graduate honors, and how you would support yourself if UW was not able to offer support.
- Writing Sample (essay or paper in French—usually between 7 and 12 pages in length)
- List of French Literature and/or Civilization courses taken and Grades received

Application materials should be sent to:
Graduate Coordinator, Shawn Ramer
ramer2@wisc.edu

-or-
Graduate Program Coordinator
Department of French and Italian
608 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706

Questions? Please contact Graduate Coordinator Shawn Ramer, ramer2@wisc.edu.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from
the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

**OTHER RESOURCES**

The Department of French and Italian typically offers three years of guaranteed support for its incoming Ph.D. students who remain in good standing in the program. The most common form of support in our department is teaching assistantships. The basic teaching assistantship in our department is at the level of 36% time and comes with a stipend, tuition remission and health benefits. For more information about our teaching assistantships, please visit our website ([https://frit.wisc.edu/graduate/french/teaching_assistantships](https://frit.wisc.edu/graduate/french/teaching_assistantships)). We also offer lectureships to dissertators, fellowships, scholarships and project assistantships, as available.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirementstext](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirementstext)), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

- **Evening/Weekend**: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Online**: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Hybrid**: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Accelerated**: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

- Minimum: 51 credits
- Credit Requirement

**REQUIRED COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRENCH 901</td>
<td>Seminar-Materials and Methods of Research (All dissertators must register for FRENCH 901 for three credits in place of FRENCH 990 during the Spring semester of the academic year following the academic year in which the Dissertation Proposal Oral Examination is completed successfully. If it is not offered, the requirement can be completed the following year.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Course Requirements:**

- **Distribution Requirement**: Students must complete the seven-area (Medieval, five-century, and Francophonie) distribution requirement started in the M.A., that is, they must complete a course or seminar in each of the remaining areas.
- **Breadth Requirement**: Students must take a second course or seminar in two of the five areas outside those of their preliminary examinations.
- **Seminar Requirement**: Students must take at least three seminars in the French section.
- **Medieval Specialists**: Students intending to write a dissertation on the medieval period must take additional courses in philology and paleography, as indicated by their advisor.

**POLICIES**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures ([https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy](https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy)) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies...
beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

**MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

The Graduate Program Handbook ([https://frit.wisc.edu/sites/frit.wisc.edu/files/French%20MA%20PhD%20guidelines%202017-18%20Final.pdf](https://frit.wisc.edu/sites/frit.wisc.edu/files/French%20MA%20PhD%20guidelines%202017-18%20Final.pdf)) is the repository for all of the program's policies and requirements.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK**

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**PROBATION**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

All students are required to conduct a yearly progress report meeting with their advisor.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and be admitted to candidacy a second time.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**OTHER**

Fellowships are available for high-ranking incoming students and dissertators. The department has a number of teaching assistantships which are granted on the basis of a candidate's previous academic record, knowledge of French, and seriousness of purpose in pursuing the Ph.D.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources ([https://grad.wisc.edu/pd](https://grad.wisc.edu/pd)) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate thorough knowledge and critical understanding of two areas of French and Francophone literature, and of the historical and social contexts that have influenced the works examined in their dissertation.
2. Show the ability to synthesize and define a field of inquiry in a persuasive, coherent, and original way.
3. Make effective use of research sources, tools, and strategies in the field of French and Francophone literature.
4. Demonstrate, in the writing of their Ph.D. dissertation, an originality of thinking and insight that reaches beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within the field of study.
5. Articulate awareness of various questions, problems, and limitations implied by their framing of their topic.
6. Contribute substantially to their area of specialization, and be able to engage in a dialogue with other experts in that area.
7. Communicate and defend complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner, in both French and English.
8. Be capable of applying their investigative skills to a variety of fields within French-speaking literature and cultures.
9. Show reading knowledge of a second foreign language pertinent to their research specialty (and, for specialists of Medieval and 16th-century French literature, a third foreign language).
10. Be prepared to be effective teachers of French/Francophone literature, culture, and language at the college and university levels.
11. Foster ethical and professional conduct.
PEOPLE

FRENCH FACULTY AND ACADEMIC STAFF

Professors Bousquet (chair), Debaisieux, Goodkin, Langer Miernowski, Tochon, Vatan and Vila

Associate Professors Dima, El Nossery and Willis Allen

Assistant Professors Armstrong and Gipson

Faculty Associates Deitz and Irving

Senior Lecturer Miernowska