

FRENCH, MA

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	18 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations 1) Oral Proficiency Exam: Non-native speakers of French must take an Oral Proficiency Interview administered by the Department and receive a rating of at least "advanced low" during their first two weeks. Depending on the results of this test, up to 6 credits of advanced French language courses and phonetics may be required (for instance: FRENCH#160;311, FRENCH/#8203;INTL#160;BUS#160;#160;313, etc.).

2) Comprehensive Exams: Students will have the choice between a written and oral examination, or an MA thesis and an oral defense.

Option 1: MA Examination:

Written Examination:

- The MA exam is usually taken by the end of the fourth semester of study, although taking it earlier is possible. It should be taken before the fifth semester of study. Academic probation will be considered if all requirements including the M.A. Exam are not completed by the beginning of the sixth semester. Given twice a year, it tests students' mastery of a broad range of texts fundamental to French and Francophone studies, along with their ability to analyze texts, answer questions, and present arguments. The reading list is posted on the program website : <https://frit.wisc.edu/>. To take the exam, students sign up with the Graduate Coordinator by April 30th for the August exam; for the January exam they must sign up with the Graduate Coordinator by the November break.
- Format: The written part of the MA exam lasts a total of 7 hours. In Part I (4 hours), students are given a choice of three questions within each of the three defined areas (Middle Ages - 16th - 17th; 18th - 19th; 20th - 21st - Francophone and Global French Studies). They must answer one question in each area. Students turn in their answers and take a one-hour break. In Part II (2 hours), students must choose one of three broad essay topics. Part I must be answered in French. Part II may be answered in English or in French.
- Use of Materials, Academic Misconduct: Students are not allowed any notes, documents, electronic files, or books (with the exception of a dictionary). MA exams can be handwritten, but if students prefer to use a computer provided by the Department, they should be aware that they are not allowed to consult any files or websites. As with all other methods of evaluating students' performance in the program, such as course assignments, the Department conforms to university regulations governing academic misconduct. Students should refer to the following university website to familiarize themselves with the definition of and the serious consequences of academic misconduct: <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity> (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>).

Oral Examination:

- A student who fails the written part of the MA exam will not take the oral part. The oral usually takes place within a week after the written examination and is conducted entirely in French. It lasts about one hour. Forty-eight hours before the oral, the candidate will be told which three books from the M.A. list will be used for selections and for the oral exam. Three hours before the oral, the candidate will be given three short extracts from the MA Reading List, and they will inform the Graduate Coordinator which extract they will analyze. The candidate will prepare an analysis of this extract in a room reserved for this purpose. There they will not have access to a computer and access to any other electronic devices is not allowed. They will annotate the text or write notes by hand that may be brought to the exam, and may use a dictionary in the preparation of these notes. During the exam the candidate will give an analysis in French of the extract chosen, lasting approximately twenty minutes. This will be followed by 10–15 minutes of discussion of the student's analysis of the chosen extract, and then by a period of questions (lasting approximately 25 minutes). Some of these questions may pertain to the candidate's written exam, but others may involve other texts on the MA reading list, from other areas.
- Weak Passes, Failures: If a student fails the written part of the exam, they will not take the oral part. They will be able to retake the entire exam at the next exam session. A student who fails the oral part of the exam may be allowed to retake the oral exam one time, at the next exam session, if s/he wishes to be reconsidered for admission into the PhD program. In order to postpone the retake until a later session, the student must make a written request to the Graduate Studies Committee and have it approved.

Option 2: MA thesis and thesis defense

A master's thesis in French (40–60 pages, including notes and bibliography):

- A master's thesis is a piece of original scholarship written under the direction of a thesis advisor. Students who are interested in writing a master's thesis should begin thinking about possible topics early in their academic program. They should contact their prospective thesis advisor by the end of their first year so that they can work on their reading and thesis plan during their third semester and write/finalize their thesis during their fourth/last semester. A master's Thesis project may be submitted for final approval only during fall and spring semesters—not in the summer.
- Students should submit a prospectus five months before the anticipated defense. The prospectus should establish the main lines of argument and organization for the thesis, and it should spell out the methodology. It should also include a timetable and a working bibliography of major and secondary sources. The prospectus needs to be approved by the thesis advisor.

- Once the prospectus is approved, students will choose a second and a third reader from the Department in consultation with their thesis advisor. The final thesis should be sent to the thesis advisor and the two readers at least three weeks before the scheduled defense.

Thesis defense:

- Students selecting the MA thesis option will take a 60-minute oral exam that will consist of a 15-minute presentation of their findings, followed by a question and answer period. The questions raised by the members of the thesis committee will focus on the thesis but may also address broader points such as the conceptual framework, methodology, theoretical approach, and socio-historical context that contribute to the definition and elaboration of the thesis topic.
- At the conclusion of the defense, the thesis may be approved in its current form or approved contingent on further revisions. If extensive revisions are required, the student will need to resubmit the thesis for final approval, and the MA thesis committee may request that the student do an additional thesis defense. If after revisions and a second defense the work is deemed insufficient for entry into the PhD program, the student will be awarded a terminal MA.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
Students must complete the following courses.		
FRENCH 569	Critical Approaches to Literature and Culture: French and Francophone Perspectives	3
FRENCH 750	Research Laboratory I: Introduction to Graduate Research	3
FRENCH 820	College Teaching of French	3
Breadth Distribution Requirement		
Students must complete at least one course in the department in each of the three defined areas.		21
<i>Breadth Requirement for AREA 1: Middle Ages - 16th - 17th centuries</i>		
FRENCH 631	17th-Century French Literature	
FRENCH 639	17th-Century Literature	
FRENCH/ MEDIEVAL 704	La Litterature Francaise du XIV et du XV Siecle	
<i>Breadth Requirement for AREA 2: 18th - 19th centuries</i>		
FRENCH 630	The Age of Reason	
FRENCH 951	Seminar on 19th Century French Poetry	
<i>Breadth Requirement for AREA 3: 20th - 21st centuries - Francophone and Global French Studies</i>		
FRENCH 647	The 20th-Century French Novel	

FRENCH 665 Introduction to Francophone
Studies

Breadth Requirement: Flexible/Open-Area Courses

The following topics courses may count for any of the 3 areas of breadth. Instructors will determine the area of breadth. Note: topics courses may cover multiple areas of breadth. Courses spanning more than one area may be counted for only one of the areas they cover.

FRENCH 567 Undergraduate Seminar in French/
Francophone Literary Studies

FRENCH 568 Undergraduate Seminar in French/
Francophone Cultural Studies

FRENCH 672 Topics in Literature and Culture

FRENCH 947 Seminar: Literature Questions

FRENCH 948 Seminar: Literature Questions

Total Credits

30

Exchange Program Course Work

Please note that courses taken while graduate students are participating in one of our exchange programs abroad do not usually count toward the completion of departmental degree requirements, although exceptions may be considered if students can provide adequate documentation of their written work, and if the Graduate Studies Committee finds the work completed abroad to be comparable to a graduate course or seminar offered in our department.

Academic and Teaching Portfolios

- Academic Portfolio: Starting in a student's second year of courses (third semester), the student will begin keeping a portfolio of work accomplished academically (actual contents will be explained in the research laboratory described below). Towards the end of each academic year the student will write a one-page self-evaluation that explains the portfolio accomplishments for the given year and sets goals for the year to come. The portfolio and self-evaluation will be evaluated by the student's advisor, who will provide the student with a written evaluation of progress. For students who are TAs, they begin a separate teaching portfolio in their first semester of study and maintain it as long as they have a TAsip.
- Teaching Portfolio: A teaching portfolio will be first set up in FRENCH 820 College Teaching of French. Its purpose is to document French graduate students' growth as instructors of language, literature, and culture as they move through each stage of the program. Materials gathered from FRENCH 820 may include statements about students' teaching philosophy, other self-reflective materials, and may also draw upon other pertinent work from FRENCH 820 College Teaching of French. During the remaining semesters of the MA and post-MA for as long as students continue to teach as TAs, one short reflective statement per semester (during those terms during which the graduate student is teaching or holding an assessment or technology TAsip) will be added to the portfolio.