

# FRENCH, PHD

## 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	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/</a> ).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/</a> ).
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 311, FRENCH/INTL 313, etc.).

2) Qualifying Examination: For students entering with an MA from outside of UW-Madison. Instead of the MA examination, students are required to take a qualifying examination identical to the oral part of the MA examination. The qualifying exam will be held at the start of the second semester and administered by the Qualifying exam committee. Candidates who fail will be asked to take the regular MA exam that is administered by the Department at the next exam session or during their fourth semester of study.

3) Preliminary Exams

- Field Exam: The goals of the Field Exam are twofold: 1) to guide students toward a deeper knowledge and understanding of a minimum of one area (two maximum; if two, the two areas must be clearly connected to the rationale of the chosen topic of research) of French and Francophone studies than is afforded by the MA exam; and 2) to enable them to define and narrow their interests in preparation for the greater specialization required for the dissertation.

The exam is a forty-eight-hour open-book take-home exam, consisting of three questions, one of which is necessarily not interpretative. For this question, students will be asked to summarize and critique a limited number of important critical/theory texts from their list(s). The other two essays are interpretative, either on the various rubrics within one field, or on the lists and rubrics from two areas. All the questions should be given in French, and at least one of the three responses should be written in French; the other two may be in French or English. There are no specific length requirements, but students typically write between 5 and 8 double-spaced pages per essay.

- Dissertation Proposal and Oral Exam: The goal of the exam is to evaluate students' ability to articulate the constituent elements of their dissertation topic coherently and convincingly; to test their awareness of various questions, problems, and limitations implied by their framing of their topic; and to assess their skill in defending original ideas in a well-informed and effective way. The exam may be in French or English, depending on the student's preference, but it is recommended that at least one question be asked and answered in French. Finally, the proposal should emphasize what the student brings to their chosen field that is new and exciting. Having already dealt with plenty of secondary/critical literature, the student should be able to identify what "gaps" there are in the respective field(s) and what their contribution might be. After passing their Field Exam, students choose a thesis advisor and form their dissertation committee; draft their dissertation proposal; and draw up a working bibliography.

Students normally take the dissertation oral exam only after completing all other requirements, including the PhD minor and language requirements. Students are reminded that dissertator status is not granted until the beginning of the semester following the one in which all requirements have been fulfilled. As with the Field Exam, it is up to the advisor, in consultation with the student and the other two committee members, to decide on the exact deadline for the submission of the dissertation proposal and bibliography, but that date should not be later than one month before the exam itself. The precise scheduling of the oral exam is arranged by the student and committee in consultation with the graduate coordinator.

4) Dissertation and Dissertation Defense: Our French program expects the minimum length of the dissertation to be approximately 200 pages, not including bibliography and annexes. Dissertations may be written in English or French.

In the oral examination, students will first present an overview of how they came to their dissertation topic, how it evolved during the research and writing process, what challenges the topic posed and how those challenges were met, and how the dissertation fits into their broader interests. They will then be questioned by the committee about topics relating to the dissertation, including its conceptualization, contextualization, and content.

Language Requirements PhD language requirements vary according to field chosen.

Graduate School All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Requirements Training policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/>).

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
Students must complete the following courses.		
FRENCH 569	Critical Approaches to Literature and Culture: French and Francophone Perspectives (must be taken in the first semester offered)	3
FRENCH 750	Research Laboratory I: Introduction to Graduate Research	3
FRENCH 820	College Teaching of French (before teaching in Department or concurrently in first semester of teaching)	3
FRENCH/ITALIAN 821	Issues in Methods of Teaching French and Italian (taken any time before dissertator status)	1
Medieval Specialists		
Students writing a dissertation on the medieval period must take additional courses in philology and paleography, indicated by advisor.		
Breadth Distribution Requirement		

Students must complete at least 9 courses for breadth in the department, including at least two in each of the three areas of breadth. 27

*Breadth Requirement for AREA 1: Middle Ages - 16th - 17th centuries*

FRENCH 631	17th-Century French Literature
FRENCH 639	17th-Century Literature
FRENCH/ MEDIEVAL 704	La Litterature Francaise du XIV et du XV Siecle

*Breadth Requirement for AREA 2: 18th - 19th centuries*

FRENCH 630	The Age of Reason
FRENCH 951	Seminar on 19th Century French Poetry

*Breadth Requirement for AREA 3: 20th - 21st centuries - Francophone and Global French Studies*

FRENCH 647	The 20th-Century French Novel
FRENCH 665	Introduction to Francophone Studies

*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

**Breadth Requirement**

Students take 9 credits in either an external or distributed doctoral minor or a graduate/professional certificate. 9

**Research**

FRENCH 901	Seminar-Materials and Methods of Research	3
FRENCH 990	Individual Research (Students enroll in credits of FRENCH 990 to reach the minimum credit requirement.)	2

**Total Credits** 51

**Dissertator Status**

Students in dissertator status may register for 3 credits of FRENCH 901 in place of FRENCH 990 more than once.

**Research Seminar**

FRENCH 901 Seminar-Materials and Methods of Research facilitates dissertation writing. The modalities of this course is decided by the instructor. Generally, the seminar will start with students' sharing and commenting on previously completed work on the dissertation. In the second half of the semester, students present one new chapter written in the course of the semester, also to be commented on by all of the members of the seminar. The seminar members will offer critiques and suggestions to each other, and the seminar leader will introduce research techniques tailored to the participants' dissertation projects. In preparing

guidance for the individual dissertator, the seminar leader will be in close touch with the dissertation advisor.

**ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO**

Starting in a student's second year of courses (third semester), the student will begin keeping a portfolio of work accomplished academically. 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.

**TEACHING PORTFOLIO**

Students are required to collaborate once with a faculty member of their choice with regard to a non-TA taught undergraduate course the faculty member is teaching that semester. A list of undergraduate courses available for this collaboration will be communicated to students each semester by the Graduate Coordinator or the Director of graduate studies. The collaboration may be carried out as part of the work of FRENCH/ ITALIAN 821 Issues in Methods of Teaching French and Italian with the agreement of the instructor, or it may be undertaken independently.