

# FRENCH MINOR PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

French is a language of growing importance in our globally connected world. It is an important language of diplomacy, research, international organizations, and the arts. French is spoken on all continents and the Francophone Organization includes 57 countries. Many graduate schools require some training in languages; French is spoken by an estimated 220 million people worldwide. That figure is set to rise sharply by 2050 with development in West and Central Africa.

The French program at Fairmont State University focuses on the study of language and culture, of communication and context, as a means to develop a comparative critical perspective. Through a broad humanities-based approach, with attention to history, the media, and the arts, students gain depth in their contextual knowledge. In addition, as students learn about cultures of the Francophone world, from Africa and the Americas to Europe and the Indian Ocean, they also understand their own story more clearly.

Learning to communicate in another language, and to develop intercultural knowledge, involves understanding simultaneous similarity and difference. This type of complex thinking is a desirable skill in many areas of the professional world. Employers seek out students who are multilingual, with concrete international experience, because of the maturity and skill set these students demonstrate. Training in French and cultural studies lays a strong groundwork for students' future lives as global citizens and innovators in many fields. Innovation coincides with an expanding network of knowledge and contacts.

French students are encouraged to study abroad through a variety of programs. International study may take place over a month-long summer session, a semester, or a full year. Students can work with the French program director to select an appropriate program and ensure approval for transfer of credits back to Fairmont State.

Advanced placement allows French students with previous experience in the target language to accelerate their program. A placement exam will determine at what level the student may begin.

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## Why French?

- French minors gain competence in global studies with a French-language focus, and have successfully combined the program with majors in other programs across campus. Students of French are well-equipped to work in government service, business, travel and hospitality, education, museums and cultural institutions, academia, and publishing. Pursuing coursework in the French program is also good preparation for law school and graduate school.
- The French minor also provides a specialized path through general studies, with courses fulfilling requirements in the areas of Cultural Awareness and Human Dignity, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Studies.

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18 CREDIT HOURS AT OR ABOVE FREN 1102

## Required Minor Courses: 9 credit hours

FREN 1102 Elementary French II	3
FREN 2201 Intermediate French I	3
FREN 2202 Intermediate French II	3

## Minor Electives: 9 credit hours

Choose from the list below:

FREN 1199 Special Topics in French	3
FREN 2220 Intermediate Topics in French	3
FREN 3310 Advanced Topics in French	3
FREN 3311 French Composition and Conversation I	3
FREN 3312 French Composition and Conversation II	3
FREN 3315 French Film	3
FREN 3321 Contemporary Literature	3
FREN 3326 Media Studies in French	3
FREN 4420 Francophone Cultures in the Americas	3
FREN 4430 Business French	3
FREN 4431 Methods and Materials in Teaching French	3
FREN 4998 Undergraduate Research	3



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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