Beyond providing mastery of the language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) of modern French needed for all purposes of daily life, the major introduces students to a central tradition of western and world culture. Since the Middle Ages, French literature, thought, taste and art have helped shape the essential experience and self-understanding of humanity at large. Survey courses and upper-division seminars offer a range of exposures to the French cultural past and the far-flung ethnic and national diversity of the French-speaking present. The major explores distinctively French contributions to world culture, such as Arthurian romance, troubadour poetry and Gothic architecture; the love sonnets of the Pléiade, the comic novels of Rabelais and the essays of Montaigne; the neoclassical theatre of Corneille, Molière and Racine and the critical philosophy of Descartes and Pascal; the Enlightenment philosophies of Voltaire, Diderot and Rousseau; the psychological refinements of French fiction from Mme de La Fayette to Proust; artistic revolutions like impressionism and surrealism; the renewal of artistic conventions in the Theatre of the Absurd, the New Novel and the cinema of the New Wave; the French-language literature of Africa, Canada and the Caribbean; and the vital presence of French writers in major movements of 20th century thought like existentialism, structuralism, feminism, psychoanalysis and contemporary cultural studies and multiculturalism.

The undergraduate degree in French emphasizes knowledge and awareness of:

- the fundamental outlines of the history of French literature from the Middle Ages to the present;
- significant works of French literature and the literary culture of the French-speaking world;
- the historical context in which particular works were written and the relation between literature and other forms of cultural expression (e.g., art, philosophy, politics, religion);
- contemporary French culture, politics and current events;
- a range of literary genres, their development and reception and relevant critical methodologies; and
- the grammatical structure of modern standard French.

In addition, students completing the degree in French are expected to acquire the ability and skills to:

- speak and understand modern, spoken standard French sufficient for all purposes of daily life and for intellectual discussion in academic settings;
- read and write modern standard French with sufficient fluency and correctness for successful literary or linguistic analysis of French texts;
- analyze and interpret literary texts in terms of style, plot, structure, characters, themes and the use of literary devices;
- communicate such analyses and interpretations simply in French or at a more sophisticated level in English, and discuss a wide range of topics concerning French culture, civilization and current events; and
- follow with reasonable comprehension French broadcasts or film.

### Concurrent Degree Program

**BA/MA in French**

The department also administers a concurrent undergraduate and graduate degree program in French, offering students the opportunity to graduate with a BA and an MA in French in five years. Students interested in this program should consult a college advisor and the associate chair for graduate studies for details. Students should also read the relevant guidelines available in the main department office.

### Requirements

Students must complete the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and the required courses listed below. Students wishing to pursue an Honors major should also consult the Honors requirements listed below.

**Note:** Students undertaking a major in French should expect to have regular conferences with a college advisor to ensure that they are making adequate progress and that requirements are being met in a timely way. The department will not certify majors for graduation when a failure to satisfy requirements is the fault of the student.

A minimum of 30 upper-division credit hours in French must be completed (see below for specific courses). FREN 2120 or its equivalent is the prerequisite for admission to courses required for the major.

### Required Courses and Semester Credit Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN 3010</td>
<td>French Phonetics and Pronunciation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 3050</td>
<td>French Composition 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FREN 3060</td>
<td>French Composition 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 3100</td>
<td>Introduction to Critical Reading and Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in French Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 3110</td>
<td>Main Currents of French Literature 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FREN 3120</td>
<td>Main Currents of French Literature 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six or more courses at the 3000 or 4000 level, of which 9 credit hours must be at the 4100 level or above (6 of which must be completed at CU)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 4990</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours: 30**

1. **Note:** The seminar runs concurrently with one of the three courses taken at the 4100 level or above. See departmental brochure for details.

### Honors Requirements

Honors candidates must meet all of the regular requirements for the major plus the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN 3200</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory and Advanced</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One semester of independent study 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours: 6**

1. **Note:** The semester of independent study is taken concurrently with FREN 4980, and is devoted to one-on-one work on the senior honors thesis with a faculty advisor. See department for details.
Graduating in Four Years with a BA in French

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements for information on eligibility. The concept of "adequate progress" as it is used here only refers to maintaining eligibility for the four-year guarantee; it is not a requirement for the major. To maintain adequate progress in French, students should meet the following requirements (one option):

- **First Year - Fall semester** FREN 1010 Beginning French I (5 cr) (if needed, does not fulfill French major course requirements)
- **First Year - Spring semester** FREN 1020 Beginning French II (5 cr) (if needed, does not fulfill French major course requirements)
- **Second Year - Fall semester** FREN 2110 2nd Year French I (3 cr) (if needed, does not fulfill French major course requirements)
- **Second Year - Spring semester** FREN 2120 2nd Year French II (Prereq for courses required for French major but does not fulfill major course requirements); FREN 3010 French Phonetics and Pronunciation (3 cr), 3 cr total required.
- **Third Year - Fall semester** FREN 3050 OR FREN 3060 French Composition I or II (3 cr); Upper division (3000 level and up) course, 6 cr total required
- **Third Year - Spring semester** FREN 3100 Intro to Critical Reading and Writing in French Literature (3 cr); FREN 3110 OR FREN 3120 Main Currents in French Literature (3cr); Upper division (3000 level and up) FREN course, 9 cr total required.
- **Fourth Year - Fall semester** FREN 4990 Senior Seminar (3cr); Upper division (3000 level and up) FREN course, 6 cr. total required.
- **Fourth Year - Spring semester** FREN course 4100 or higher (3 cr required); Upper division (3000 level and up) FREN course, 6 cr. total required.

Note: Completion of French requirements includes the successful written and oral presentation of a senior essay (FREN 4990) by the end of the fourth (senior) year.