

French

Learning Goals

1. To use French actively in all courses throughout the sequence; language skills will be assessed at all levels.
2. To be able to study in different fields and disciplines using French.
3. To have the opportunity to study in a French-language culture. To pursue an academic program that includes course work at one of the country's postsecondary academic institutions.
4. To pursue a balanced and coherent program of study among language, literature, and culture, and between the historical and the contemporary.
5. To form some acquaintance with Francophone literatures and cultures.
6. To graduate with active competence in French.
7. To pursue senior work that involves independent research, reading, and reflection in the context of a senior seminar or independent project.

About the major

The French Department provides its students with a thorough training in French language and culture, enabling them to interact freely and easily with French native speakers in all areas of linguistic competency. Students acquire an active command of written and spoken French, and discover and appreciate French and Francophone cultures. In addition to building linguistic and cultural competence in all students, we seek to provide more advanced students with the analytical skills necessary to understand the expressions and manifestations of these cultures through the study, in French, of literature, cinema, history, the arts, and the social sciences.

Finally, since we believe that direct contact and experience with the French-speaking world in and beyond the classroom are inseparable from these goals, we also encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them for study in French-speaking countries. Majors are expected to study abroad, preferably for a full year. We expect all students abroad to make a serious attempt to improve their linguistic and cultural skills.

Reasons you might choose this major

- You want to build fluency in a language that is shared by people all over the world, and want to explore how France has impacted European and global history.
- You are interested in exploring the French-speaking cultures of Africa, the Caribbean, or North America.
- You are curious about life as a student in Paris, Poitiers, Bordeaux, or Yaoundé.
- You want to share your love of French with a new generation of language learners.
- You want to pursue a career that will bring you into contact with other world cultures.
- You are passionate about development, global health, the European Union, and international affairs.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where French majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

Maria Louisa Design

World Teach

Thinking Beyond Borders

U.S. Department of Education

Inter-American Development Bank

State Street Media

Hearst Corporation

Assemblée Nationale

City Hall of New York City

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

Theatre et Cinema Ile de France

The Foundation Center

New Venture Fund

La Maison des Journalistes

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

Conseil Régional d'Ile de France

Department of Homeland Security

House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs

Council on Hemispheric Affairs

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. go/midd2midd

TJX Companies Inc., *Vice President Global Communications*

Dell EMC, *Senior Advisor, Global Renewals Transformation Office*

Goldman Sachs, *Managing Director, Global Securities*

Library of Congress, *Chief, Cataloging Division*

eBay, *Vice President (North America)*

U.S. Customs, *Import Specialist*

Terry Precision Cycling, *CEO and Owner*

International Olympic Committee, *Partnership Marketing Coordinator*

TCR Capital, *Partner (France)*

Stanford University Press, *Translator*

American Institute for Research, *Principal Research Analyst*

World Bank Group, *Consultant, Human Development, Health, Nutrition and*

Population

Rhudick Translations, *Translator, Editor, and Proofreader*

Disney-ABC News, *Producer*

FBI, *Special Agent*

Kintetsu World Express Inc.-USA, *Import-Export Agent*

National Geographic Learning/Cengage Learning, *Vice President, Production*

InStyle Magazine, *Executive Editor*

Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation, *Director of Programs*

ICF International, *Expert Consultant*

The Polaris Institute, *Business Language Consultant*

Manuel Canovas (Colefax Group), *Paris Client Advisor*