

French Curriculum Overview

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French is a useful strategic language, especially for those interested in careers in the military, business, the Department of Defense, research, and industry. It is ranked as the second most important communication language in the world after English by the Bloomberg Rankings (2014). Norwich has developed a program to prepare students to use French in the workplace or to strengthen an application for graduate school.

The French minor offers courses that are communicative and interactive at all levels. For beginning and intermediate-level students, a strong audio-video program facilitates learning language from native speakers through visuals and oral patterning. Every course includes a cultural focus. Literature, civilization courses and the examination of international French-language media sources provide opportunities for students to be alert to cultural differences outside their own culture to develop a more global perspective. The French minor offers service-learning courses and community service with leadership opportunities. Past examples of service include French-language interpreter/cultural role-play with 40 members of the National Guard, participation in Vermont's Lake Champlain Quadricentennial events representing the French heritage of the region, and the translation of a brochure for the Washington County Battered Women Services and Shelter.

All students are encouraged to participate in the program's *Cercle Francophone*/French Club on-campus and to study abroad for a summer or semester in an approved overseas program to experience language immersion and explore products, practices, and perspectives of other cultures. Norwich maintains a student exchange program with the renowned French military academy, *l'École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr* in Coëtquidan, France.

Students who have completed more than one year of high school French, or the equivalent, must take the foreign language placement test before registering for their first Norwich course in French.

Goals:

The French minor provides students with competency using the forms of language and cultural expression appropriate for use in the professions.

Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the minor in French, students will present test results and written work in their dossiers showing the abilities to:

- develop linguistic skills in oral and written expression at the intermediate to low-advanced level
- engage in everyday conversation with native speakers of French
- communicate with respect and cultural understanding in the French language
- read and analyze authentic documents from French-speaking societies
- produce texts and media in French and demonstrate an understanding of approaches to translation

Careers for this Minor:

Because French is ranked the second most important communication language in the world after English according to the Bloomberg Rankings (2014) and has been identified as strategic for the military and counter-terrorist organizations, demonstrated proficiency in French language and culture can be a very useful asset for careers in

- military service
- diplomacy

- business
- law enforcement and peacekeeping
- state and federal government agencies
- industry and technology
- research
- teaching
- NGO global partnerships.

Minor

French Minor Curriculum Map 2019-2020 Catalog

All courses require a grade of C or higher. The courses required to complete the minor depend on the French-language proficiency level of the incoming student. See tracks A and B below:

A. Track A is to be completed by students who place at or below the intermediate level:

FR 205	Intermediate French I	3
FR 206	Intermediate French II	3
FR Elective (250 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
Total Cr.		18

B. Track B is to be completed by students who place above the intermediate level:

FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
FR Elective (311 or higher)		3
Total Cr.		18