

We assume that all of our majors will do their best throughout the program, but we like to offer special incentives to those who demonstrate a commitment to excellence. While you may be focused on getting the best grade possible in a given course, please also keep in mind that your performance as a whole may qualify you for a variety of honors and awards.

Awards

Each year, the French section chooses students from all classes as recipients for various awards:

- **Guillaumant Award:** Our highest award is presented to an outstanding graduating senior French major. Recipients of this monetary award will not only have completed superior coursework in French (measured by GPA), but will also have contributed significantly to the promotion of French studies and activities on campus.

- **Patterson Maclean Friedrich Award:** This award is presented to an outstanding junior French major. A scholarship (generally between \$1000 and \$2000) will be provided towards the student's senior year.

- **Book Prizes:** Outstanding freshmen and sophomores will be chosen for book prizes based on current GPA in French courses and overall promise as French majors or minors.

Honors Reception

Each year in May, the Foreign Language faculty hold an end-of-the-year Honors Reception during which they give special recognition to their graduating majors and present awards to those students who have done superior work in their field. This reception is a chance for us to honor all our outstanding students and for you to be recognized (as well as eat free food!).

If you are a graduating senior or have been invited to the reception for one of the awards listed above, **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION!** While there are sometimes potential conflicts at this busy time of the year, we do appreciate this once-a-year chance to honor our students.

Pi Delta Phi

Valpo's local chapter of the French National Honor Society, Pi Delta Phi, accepts new members every year. The criteria for admittance into this honor society are as follows:

1) Completion of two French courses beyond FLF 203, including:

- one course from the French Texts and Society sequence (FLF 351, 352, 353) **OR**
- participation in one of the VU Paris programs

2) Overall GPA of B
3) French GPA of B+

Once you have met these criteria, you will be invited to join. If you join, you will be asked to pay a modest one-time membership fee. Every spring, the French section organizes an induction ceremony and reception for current and new members.

Phi Beta Kappa

Outstanding students, not just French majors, may also be eligible for membership in the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa society. Membership in this institution is by nomination only, but you may wish to discuss with your advisor early what criteria are necessary for consideration. For details, consult the society's campus webpage: www.valpo.edu/organization/pbk

Honors Projects

Occasionally, French majors decide to pursue work above and beyond the standard requirements for the major. If you would like to graduate in French "with honors," you may consider doing Departmental Honors Work.

If you are interested in conducting Departmental Honors Work in French we encourage you to discuss options with your advisor early on. This work entails completing an individualized project based on independent study during the senior year. Students who wish to begin honors work need to have completed 80 credit hours by the end the junior year, have a cumulative GPA of 3.00, and have a French GPA of 3.5. A plan for the project (usually a significant research project/paper) must be submitted to the Chair and Dean's office by the first Monday of April of the student's second semester, junior year. For more details, see the *General Catalog*.

En bref...

- **Jobs, careers & VU graduates in the workplace**
- **Fulbright scholarships**
- **Teaching English in France**
- **Graduate school**
- **Internships**
- **Letters of recommendation**
- **Resources:**
 - employment
 - organizations
 - internships

I have a major in French, so what comes next?

The skills you have developed in the French major are general AND specific. For this reason many possibilities await you. **You are marketable because your experience with the language and your cultural awareness are assets to employers who have relationships with French and other international speakers.**

If you want to continue your studies beyond the B.A., there are graduate programs to which you may apply. Perhaps you will consider a Fulbright application or teaching English in France.

If more experience is what you wish to gain, there are a variety of internships both here and abroad. And don't forget your less-obvious abilities that are an asset in whatever you do! You know how to be flexible, to adapt to foreign situations, to think critically, to demonstrate global awareness and sensitivity to diversity, to interpret data and evaluate information. You have experience in clarifying ideas, writing and speaking clearly, in teamwork, creating presentations, gathering and organizing information, and working with original texts and references.

Take some initial direction from the list below, and develop an attitude that will help you translate the experiences you already have in clubs, social organizations, jobs, volunteer work, leadership and, cultural activities into valuable, career related opportunities. Your professors will be happy to offer additional guidance.

Jobs & careers

A degree in French can help you succeed in **finding a job and pursuing a career** in a number of areas. You can see from the examples below that students who have graduated with a degree in French have gone on to pursue interesting and rewarding careers in a wide variety of fields:

Business: Import-Export, Advertising, Banking & Finance, Engineering, Research, Translation

- *Tina: Vice President of a securities trading company with an MBA from Northwestern U.*

Government: Foreign Service, Translation, Aid Agencies, Overseas Government Schools, U. S. Armed Forces

- *Carrie: Peace Corps Volunteer, Morocco; then a graduate student in Arabic Studies, Georgetown U.; currently a Program Analyst, Africa unit of the Millennium Challenge Corp.*
- *Melissa: Senior policy analyst with the U.S. Agency for International Development.*

Service: Health Professions, Social Work, Library Science, Service Organizations, Law and Law Enforcement, Volunteer Agencies. Agency for International Development (AID), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Missionary work to Third-World Countries (such as Haiti). Museums and Special Events (Olympics)

- *Allison: Lutheran Community Services Specialist, Thrivent Financial, Saint Louis*
- *Jenny: Sous Espwa (Source of Hope), ministry of Christian Reformed Church in Haiti*

Teaching: Elementary, Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities, Commercial and Government-Operated Schools, Overseas Institutions, The Peace Corps

- *Wendy and Ricky: High school French teachers in Indiana*
- *Emily: Assistante d'anglais (English Teaching Assistant), French public schools*

Tourism and Hospitality: Transportation, Hotels and Motels, Restaurants and Culinary Schools, Excursions and Tours

- *Christopher: Dean of the Culinary School of Kendall College, Chicago, IL*

The Media: Journalism, Radio & Television, Film, Publishing, Voiceovers

Translation and Interpreting: Courtroom, Conference, Free-Lance, Escort, Simultaneous & Consecutive, Publishing Houses, Trade Shows, Transcription, Proofreading, Editing

You can explore profiles of department graduates, and browse alumni updates in our Lingua Viva Newsletter:

valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/alumni

AND

valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/careers

Fulbright scholarships

Approximately 1,200 American students are offered grants yearly to study, teach English, and conduct research in more than 110 countries throughout the world through the Fulbright Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. **Established in 1946, the Fulbright “aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills.”** If you have a potential project or wish to teach in another country, and can contribute to bettering ties between America and countries abroad, then you should strongly consider applying.

Valparaiso University is a national leader among master's level institutions in having its students selected for Fulbright awards. You should know that, in 2008, Valpo won the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. VU was recognized as a model for other institutions of higher education in preparing graduates with strong cross-cultural skills and global awareness.

Eighteen Valpo students have won Fulbright scholarships since 2004 to teach or conduct research in Egypt, China, South Korea, Germany and six other countries.

Applications are due in September of your senior year, so it is important to speak with your advisor early.

VU Contact: **Dr. Chuck Schaefer**, Associate professor of History and Fulbright Advisor
Chuck.Schaefer@valpo.edu | x 5265

For further information, see:
<http://fulbright.state.gov>

Teaching English in France

The French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services at the Embassy of France offer each year roughly **1,500 teaching assistant positions in French primary and secondary schools.**

Many of our Valpo graduates have pursued

this opportunity to teach abroad and have found this to be a thoroughly unique avenue by which to not only gain valuable teaching experience but also spend time in France or in one of its overseas departments ("DOM"). Consider applying for this program if you want to further your mastery of French through linguistic immersion while allowing, at the same time, for a privileged insight into contemporary France.

For details on this program, talk with one of your French professors or visit the site of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy at www.frenchculture.org

Graduate school

Graduate programs in French offer advanced instruction primarily in language and literature. Often graduate programs offer other tracks in linguistics and/or second language acquisition. In all cases, it is expected that graduate study in French will also explore in greater depth the historical background of Francophone countries and issues facing French society, both past and present. Keep in mind that applications for admission are usually due in January and February of the year you graduate, and that you will need to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) prior to application.

A master's degree in French (1-2 years), as the name implies, generally requires mastery of a body of knowledge (such as language acquisition theory or French literature from the Middle Ages to the present) as well as continued mastery of the French language. A doctorate degree (5+ years) deepens that mastery through additional coursework and research in a relatively focused area leading to the completion of a dissertation on an original scholarly topic.

Historically, French programs have privileged literary studies. In large research institutions, graduate students in literary studies typically outnumber those in linguistics or second language acquisition. However, this trend is beginning to change as doctoral programs become increasingly interdisciplinary.

Keep in mind that graduate school applications are usually due in January or February of your senior year.

Traditionally, graduate study was meant to prepare students to teach French at a variety of levels, particularly at the university. Such academic positions, while not the most highly remunerated, do offer job stability by way of tenure and the luxury of remaining a lifetime learner. In recent years, in part due to the tight academic job market for language Ph.Ds, newly minted graduate students have found positions outside of academia. Many employers outside of education are beginning to see the benefits of hiring students (often as consultants) who have strong language skills, superior analytical skills, and in-depth cultural awareness.

In large institutions, graduate students often teach lower level language classes and receive (modest) teaching assistant stipends for doing so. In some cases, limited research fellowship opportunities are also available. Tuition waivers are often a given, but not at all institutions. Given the institution and the available funding, graduate students in French are rarely flush with cash. While it may not seem like a financially attractive position, graduate study is nevertheless much more like a full-time job than undergraduate study and should be treated as such.

Graduate study in French requires commitment, drive, and a passion for research. If you feel you possess these traits and wish to pursue French studies beyond the undergraduate degree, consult with French faculty early about your interests, intentions, and motivations. Research the types of programs that best fit your needs and look for faculty who are working in an area of interest to you. Graduate study is a long-term commitment, but one whose rewards should not be always overlooked in favor of more financially lucrative career options.

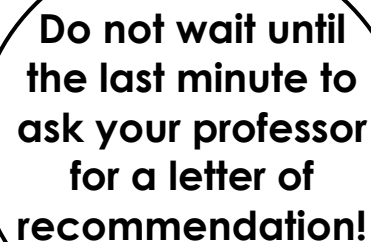
Internships

For those students who do not wish to pursue graduate study, but are unsure about which career path to take, an internship is a useful way to ease into the post-undergraduate world of work. As you will see from the resources in the appendix, there are many opportunities to use your French degree in short-term work opportunities, both in the US and abroad. These temporary stages, as the

French call them, are a way to obtain useful work experience and in some cases can become stepping stones to permanent positions. The French Consulate website (www.consulfrance-chicago.org) is a good place to start looking for internships requiring a knowledge of French. **Other resources are available in the appendix which follows this section.**

Letters of recommendation

Whether you are applying for a job, fellowship, internship, or graduate school, you will inevitably need to submit letters of recommendation. Who should you ask to provide references? Choose recommenders who know your skills and can evaluate your abilities. On the average, employers, graduate schools, and internship and scholarship applications require three references for each candidate, so have at least that many ready. **It's important to know your references, to select the right people, and to get their permission in a timely manner.** Plan to meet early with your recommender to discuss your goals and accomplishments and be ready to show examples of your best past work. Stay involved! Your activities count! And finally, do not wait until the last minute to ask for a letter.



Do not wait until the last minute to ask your professor for a letter of recommendation!

On-line Resources

• Professional Organizations

AATF (American Association of Teachers of French)	www.frenchteachers.org
AAAL (American Association for Applied Linguistics)	www.aaal.org
ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)	www.actfl.org
AQEFLS (L'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants de français langue seconde in Montréal, Québec, Canada)	www.aqefls.org/
CIEE (Council on International Cultural Exchange)	www.ciee.org/ciee.htm
MLA (Modern Language Association of America)	www.mla.org
NCLIS (National Council for Languages and International Studies)	www.languagepolicy.org

• Internships

Volunteer Work Internships.com	www.udel.edu/CSC/volunteerpage.html
Internships USA	www.internships.com
Federal Government Internship Opportunities	www.internships-usa.com
Simplyhired.com	www.makingthedifference.org/federalinternships/directory
Intern Abroad	www.simplyhired.com
Washington DC Job	www.internabroad.com
<i>an excellent site listing Federal internships and other student programs</i>	http://dcjobsources.com/fedinterns.html
CDS International	www.cdsintl.org/
Idealist	www.idealist.org
Institute for Experiential Learning	www.ielnet.org/
Interexchange	www.interexchange.org
Student Jobs in government	intern.studyabroad.com
Studyabroad.com	www.studentjobs.gov
Transitions abroad	www.transitionsabroad.com
U.S. Intelligence Agencies	www.intelligence.gov/3-student-opportunities.shtml
USAID Internship	www.usaid.gov/careers/studentprograms.html

• Employment websites

American Translators Association	www.atanet.org
ESL Café-Job Center	www.eslcafe.com
International Career Employment Center	www.internationaljobs.org
Language Corps	www.languagecorps.com
National Association for Bilingual Education	www.nabe.org
Overseas Jobs	www.overseasjobs.org
Riley Guide International Resources	www.rileyguide.com
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages	www.tesol.org
United Nations	www.un.org

Course Rotation

Here is when we will offer all of our French courses in the next 4 years:

Fall 2010

101
203
204
240
307
351

Spring 2011

102
204
220
200 / 290
352
493
271

Fall 2011

101
203
204
290
306
353

Spring 2012

102
204
220
302
493
271

Fall 2012

101
203
204
240
307
351

Spring 2013

102
204
220
301
352
493
271

Fall 2013

101
203
204
290
306
353

Spring 2014

102
204
220
302
493
271

Calendar of Activities & Deadlines

We offer many activities throughout the year. You are strongly encouraged to attend as many events as you can and get involved early in your studies. Look for updates on the department's website as well as the French bulletin board in Meier Hall. Many events, especially in the fall semester, have already been scheduled. If a date is indicated ("Tues, 8.25 - One People, One Planet," for example), then you know that the event is definite. Other events haven't been finalized or announced just yet, but we will notify you in class of all upcoming activities and deadlines.

August	Tues, 8.24 - One People, One Planet (get info on the French Club and other student organizations)	5:30 pm, Huegeli Hall lawn
September	Tues, 8.31 - Fête d'ouverture / French Open House (meet other French majors, your profs, and students from France) Tues, 9.7 - French Majors meeting Wed, 9.15 - Study abroad application due (Cergy and La Rochelle-Business only) Thurs, 9.23 - Focus on Africa kick-off event Fri, 9.24 - Foreign Language Alum Career Panel Thurs, 9.30 - French study-abroad meeting	5 pm, German House 9 pm, Union Apply through Office of International Programs 7 pm, Union 4 pm, German House 9 pm, Union
October	Fri, 10.1 - Study-abroad application due (for spring 2011 enrollment)	Apply through Office of International Programs
November	Nov 10 - 14- <i>Tartuffe</i> (University Theatre production) French House informational meeting	VUCA (see their website for times)
December	Bûche de Noël gathering	
January	Fri, 1.21 - French film (<i>Entre les murs</i>) Mon, 1.24 - French House application due	7 pm, NSC (World Cinema Series) Apply through Residential Life, Kretzmann Hall
February	Tues, 2.15 - Study abroad application due (for fall 2011 enrollment) World Banquet	Apply through Office of International Programs Union
March	Apply for membership to Pi Delta Phi	
April	Fête du théâtre (performance by participants in the French Drama Practicum) Foire aux fromages	Duesenberg Recital Hall
May	5.2 - Honors Reception (by invitation)	4 pm, Meier Hall

Important Contacts

French Faculty

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Meier 122

Language Resource Center x 5764

Meier Hall Main Office x 5341

Registrar's Office x 5212 registrar@valpo.edu