Welcome to French studies at Valpo! We are delighted to count you among our ranks of majors and minors and look forward to joining you on your exploration of French language, literature, and culture. As you begin to navigate this journey, keep in mind the many sources of information that will help steer you and keep you on course.

For official policies about the major and minor, your best resource is the General Catalog for the year you started on campus as well as the Student Guide to University Life. These documents provide detailed information not only about majors, but also about General Education requirements and other important University policies. Keep these documents on your desk at all times as resources in case you ever have questions about academic requirements and policies.

In addition to the general resources above, you can also glean important information about French Studies at Valpo via the website of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures:

- Details about French Studies: valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french
- Important links for all current French students valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french/enroute
- Calendar of events for all French students valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french/esprit

This guidebook serves as an in-depth and more personal guide to the French major (or minor) at Valpo. While it may repeat some of the information from the resources above, it will also flesh out important details and provide “insider” information and advice. In any program or major, there are explicit expectations (course requirements, etc.), but also implicit expectations. Our hope is that this Guidebook for French Studies at VU will provide both, thus giving you a full picture of what awaits you.
Can I really use French in my career? Oui!

Read the stories of these VU graduates who found that having French made the difference when they were looking for a job. Most combined a major in French with another major. Being able to speak and write French well, however, set them apart from other applicants. They worked hard to develop their skills and knowledge in French—and it has paid off for them.

Combine French

- Business
- Engineering
- International Economics and Cultural Affairs (IECA)
- International Service
- Education
- Other complementary majors
French and International Development

Carrie Parrot Monahan
IREX
Young African Leaders Initiative
Washington, DC

Valparaiso University ’00, Double Major
French and International Economics
& Cultural Affairs

Carrie Parrot Monahan works for IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board), a non-profit organization specializing in organizing international professional training, in Washington, D.C. She says, "I’m working on President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (youngafricanleaders.state.gov), working with a team to design professional development programs for youth when they return to Africa (i.e. internships, a mentoring program, etc.) after a 6 week leadership program in the U.S. I’m spending most of my time now developing partnerships with companies and other organizations that are based in or have operations in Africa. It’s really interesting! I am using my French and am hoping to make a trip to Senegal in the next year."

Here’s what Carrie said about her previous job and her career path:

"I work in Washington, DC, in the field of international development for the U.S. Government at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, managing economic development programs in West Africa. Our mission at MCC is to reduce poverty through economic growth. Because I work with francophone countries, I use French almost daily—reading documents, writing, and speaking with our French-speaking counterparts. In fact, I’m fairly certain one of the main reasons I was selected for an interview with my organization was because I speak fluent French. I travel frequently to the region and have had the opportunity to learn about many different cultures—French has opened many doors for me and because of it, my life after college has been full of exciting opportunities and travel to interesting places.

I was first exposed to French when a group of high school students came to my elementary school and taught my class French once a week for several months. I loved it! When the time came to pick a language to study in middle school and high school, I chose French and continued my studies through college, where I majored in French and studied abroad in Paris. I loved the sound of French and the process of learning a language—I have since learned several others and have found that knowing French has helped me immensely. Several years after college, I became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco and used my French frequently. These experiences all greatly influenced my career path.

For many years as a French student, I thought my only career option (if I wanted to use it professionally) was to become a French teacher. I’ve found that, particularly in Washington, DC, it is incredibly valued in certain fields. I would advise French students who are interested in travel and an international career to continue their studies until they are proficient, and to study or live abroad if possible. Recruiters in the fields of international development and international relations have a real need for strong French speakers and it could open doors and opportunities you would never imagine."
"I was skeptical that French would be such a valuable skill to have in my pursuit of a career. Nor did I think it would come into play so quickly. Having a desire to work in a truly global business environment pushed me to carry my basic French skills from high school into college and pursue a degree in French.

I work for Orange Business Services. Orange is one of France’s largest telecom providers and has a wide reaching global presence in both the consumer and business-to-business markets. I manage our corporate accounts. Most of these are Global 500 accounts and I have access to the highest-ranking executives at a number of these companies.

While I realize that getting a job is part networking and ‘who you know,’ at the end of the day it was my French skills that differentiated me from the competition while interviewing for this job. Throughout my more than seven interviews at varying layers of management, I remarked that each of them were happy to see I had proficiencies not only in French language, but culture as well. At the time I was the only person who spoke French so I became very valuable to management for the translation of conference calls and business documents.

It is also quite nice to travel to Paris for work, and have numerous opportunities to interact with French co-workers. My managers have said that my fluency in French will remain a differentiating skill in my career progression.

I feel very fortunate not only to have a great job, but also to work in a field that directly correlates to my degrees and interests. I can honestly say that my study of French at Valpo and abroad definitely opened up doors to a life I only dreamed of when I began my degree studies."
"French is something that I stumbled upon in high school in an effort to be different and prove I could make it by taking a different path than others. From the first class I took, I knew it was something that I could become quite good at and for which I had a deep passion. I pursued that passion against all objectors and before I knew it I was graduating from college with a degree in French.

I now manage a $100 million segment of my company’s business of which over 50% comes from French speaking areas. I now find myself as much of a success in my professional life than some of my friends who have graduated with Business or engineering degrees.

Many Americans forget that there is a huge market for French speakers in the business world due to our proximity to Quebec (population 8 million) which accounts for about $80 billion in trade per year. The demand for French speakers will only grow as trade continues to accelerate between the US and Francophone countries.

I use my French every day, whether it is talking to clients on the phone or proof-reading and approving marketing documents. Without me, my team would come to a standstill and fail in our business objectives and it is because I chose to be different and learn French that I am able to succeed in this way.

My most important advice is, don’t be afraid to be the only one to jump off the ledge and learn something different. While I encourage all to learn a language whether it’s French or otherwise, I have reaped the benefit of French not just in the business world but also in my personal life. My current home state of Michigan has a large population of African immigrants, many of whom speak French. My ability to communicate with them in their native language is something that I have found extremely rewarding and has left me with Francophone friends I can count on every day."
As you study French at Valpo, you'll find that your classes and extra-curricular opportunities will help you work toward certain goals—learning objectives, as we faculty call them. Most obviously, you want to improve your language skills—your ability to communicate in French. But a glance at the university’s General Catalog shows that majoring or minoring in French includes more than just learning to speak, write, and understand! We also want you to learn about other cultures, to become a critical reader of literature, and to gain insight into your own language and culture through the study of another language and culture(s).

As you look at the Catalog, you'll see the way in which the French major and minor are designed to help you develop skills and knowledge in all three of these areas—language, literature, and culture—while giving you a choice of more specialized courses as well.

Here's the official description of the French major: "A minimum of 27 credit hours in French beyond FLF 203 constitutes a major. Courses must include FLF 204, 220, 351, 352, 353, and 493." These courses aren't chosen at random. The mix of classes will give you the minimum preparation in the three areas of the major outlined above (language, literature, culture), and you'll add to that by choosing the elective classes that you especially want to take. Thinking about a minor in French? To complete the French minor students take FLF 204 and 220, plus enough elective credits to total at least 16 credit hours. At least one course (three credits) must be 300-level or higher. Of course you're not limited to 16 credits. Courses you take in France can count toward the major or minor.

Here's a brief breakdown of what the official Catalog language means.

First, the required courses. Everyone begins the major and minor with FLF 204, a language-focused course that solidifies your knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary and works on your speaking, reading, and writing skills. Next, FLF 220—called "Approaches to French Literature"—helps you learn some specific skills in reading works of literature, from poetry to novels to plays. The skills you hone in these two courses prepare you for the three-course sequence that is at the heart of the major: FLF 351, 352, and 353. These courses meld the study of civilization, culture, history, and literature, in a chronological approach. Through reading, discussion, and activities, you'll learn how French culture came to be what it is today.

Finally, you will finish your major with the “capstone course,” FLF 493, the Senior Seminar. The topic of this course changes
regularly, but is always designed to help you bring together the three "threads" of the major—literature, language, and culture—in an advanced course focused on one theme or subject.

**Along the way, of course, you will choose elective classes that help you to explore areas that interest you.** These include advanced language courses focusing on one particular aspect of your developing language skills: FLF 301, "Advanced Oral Expression," and FLF 302, "Advanced Written Expression." There are also more specialized language courses: FLF 306, which teaches you business French; FLF 240—Phonetics—which works on pronunciation as well as language history. If it's the performing arts that interest you, each spring we offer FLF 271, French Theater Practicum. Here you rehearse and perform a play in French, with no prior acting experience required. FLF 230, Contemporary France, helps develop your knowledge of French society today. And of course there are rotating topics courses—FLF 290 and FLF 390—which focus on special subjects from film to French cuisine to literature from the Francophone world.

Altogether, the required courses and electives within the major will equal at least 27 credits (but you can take more French credits than that, if you wish!).

So you can see that the French major is not just a random collection of courses, but a well-rounded series of classes aimed at giving you breadth of knowledge and advanced skills in language and critical thinking.

You should know that our courses are all taught in a regular rotation. Most of our upper-level courses are taught once every two years, but it's easy to plan out your four years at Valpo to fit in all the required courses and your chosen electives in the French major, along with your second major or minor, General Education courses, and naturally your semester or year of study in France! Your French advisor—Professor Randa Duvick or Professor Timothy Tomasik—will work closely with you to plan your schedule for all four years.

**If you plan to teach French at the elementary-, middle- or high-school levels, you will do the regular French major and also major in Education.** Beyond your more general courses in education, you'll take one course—The Teaching of Foreign Languages—in which you'll learn the special methods used in the classroom to teach French to the next generation of French majors.

Many French majors also have a major in another area. Some of the most frequently chosen are International Economics & Cultural Affairs (IECA), Global Service, International Business (within the College of Business Administration), and Political Science. But nearly any major that interests you can dovetail nicely with a French major. Numerous French majors have gone to medical school; students in the Valparaiso International Engineering Program (VIEP) are combining engineering and French in a five-year program; majors in Spanish and French find themselves particularly well positioned for a teaching career.

French minors find that their program in French complements everything from International Business to Math to Political Science.

The French faculty's goal is to provide you with a challenging and interesting curriculum that prepares you well for a variety of careers, and also prepares you for a life of continued learning and growing.
There is no single magic formula that will guarantee success in the French major or minor. Each student comes into the program with a different background and formation in French. You will have strengths that will help you excel in some areas and weaknesses that you will need to address in others. In addition to following the explicit and obvious rule of working hard, keep in mind the following bits of implicit advice that we hope will facilitate the hard work you put into the major and minor.

- **Seek out your professors and advisor**
  Your professors in the French section are your best resource for French studies on campus. We can give you detailed advice on how to work effectively within a particular course as well as on how to anticipate future courses and plan study abroad. Do not hesitate to ask questions in or out of class. In addition to being available at posted office hours, most faculty are in their office in the Arts and Sciences building at many other times (when not teaching or in a meeting) and are happy to schedule appointments with you. Send an email or leave a message on an office phone. Your professors do, occasionally, have lives outside of preparing and teaching classes so you may not receive an instant response (particularly late in the evening or on the weekends), but rest assured we will respond.

- **Buy the best dictionary you can find**
  Purchasing a good dictionary is one of the best investments you can make as a French major. Small, paperback French-English dictionaries and on-line dictionaries (www.wordreference.com) are adequate for basic information (looking up the gender of a word, checking spelling, a quick translation), but they will not be adequate for reading and writing in upper level courses. One of the best French-English dictionaries is the Collins Robert French Unabridged Dictionary (which runs about $50 brand new but that can be had used for much less). After that, most hardback dictionaries will be fine. To judge the quality of a dictionary, one rule of thumb is to look up the verb “faire.” If the dictionary has a short entry with only a handful of expressions and translations, it is not adequate for upper level courses. If it has several columns of translations with long lists of idiomatic expressions, you have a worthwhile dictionary. While on-line dictionaries are fine for the basics mentioned above, you should avoid at all costs using on-line translation engines (sites that translate entire sentences or paragraphs). Translation engines are woefully inaccurate and their use in French classes is a violation of the Honor Code.

- **Come to class prepared, ready to participate**
  Studies of second language acquisition tell us that repeated and consistent exposure to language from a variety of
sources is key to success. While you will be exposed to French outside of class when doing homework, the 50 minutes you spend in class three (or four) times a week are precious moments for language exposure. Take full advantage of them. Also, while study and memorization are important skills in mastering a second language, actually using and applying what you know are the most effective ways to truly acquire French and make it a part of you. Speak in class as often as you can (without monopolizing discussion) and take risks in expressing your ideas. You will inevitably make mistakes, but you will also inevitably learn from them.

• **Become culturally aware and alert**
  In every French class that you take, whether it is a beginning language class or an advanced topic seminar, you are learning about language and culture simultaneously. The fact that nouns are either masculine or feminine in French is not just a rule of grammar. It is also a key component of the French cultural mentality, the way they see the world. Be mindful of how linguistic differences correspond to cultural differences. Look for connections not only between different French courses, but between French courses and others that you take throughout the University.

• **Study abroad in a French speaking country**
  As you will see in the section on curricular and co-curricular activities of this guidebook, VU offers a great variety of study abroad opportunities in France. Your professors will try their hardest to provide exposure to French in as many authentic ways as possible, but even with the best of intentions we cannot hope to replicate in the classroom what it is like to live in France or another francophone country. A sustained immersion in the language and culture is a crucial step in your progress to the degree. If study abroad is not feasible (for a variety of reasons), consider living in the French House for a semester. In either case, consult your advisor and begin making plans early in your studies.

• **Seek out native speakers of French**
  With the increasing number of exchange opportunities between VU and various universities in France, there are increasing numbers of native French speakers on campus (the French House Program Assistant, students from Cergy-Pontoise, La Rochelle International Business school and the Engineering School in Compiègne). Find out who they are and get to know them. They will benefit from speaking English with you as much as you will benefit from speaking French with them. In addition to enriching your respective experiences on campus, you will be making contacts that might be of personal benefit later when you study abroad.

• **Use the Language Resource Center (LRC)**
  As it will be described in the next section, the LRC is an important resource for students of French. Students of all levels and abilities are encouraged to work with the French language partner and seek out other opportunities for authentic language use within the LRC. Students should also explore the collection of reference and enrichment materials in the LRC, including dictionaries, French television, a reading collection and an entire library of French films. The LRC is a great place to relax or study where all Valpo language learners can connect with one another in a welcoming and internationally focused setting.

• **Use the En route resource page:**
  valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french/enroute

Your professors have assembled a variety of useful resources and links meant to keep current students of French up-to-date on all aspects of our French program. On the En Route page you will find announcements about upcoming events, links to details about the French House as well as our 5 study abroad programs, helpful advising tools, and more. Note especially the online exercises for focused grammar review that your professors may recommend to you as supplemental practice. There is also a collection of print exercises, so remember to look for the file box in the LRC!

• **Attend all French related activities on campus**
  The Esprit français program, the Cercle français (French Club), and the Maison française (French House) sponsor a variety of events and extracurricular activities throughout the year. In the past we have had crêpe sales in the Union, shown French movies, visited art exhibits in Chicago, baked bûches de Noël, offered a cheese tasting, organized a Fête du théâtre, and prepared a traditional French meal, among many other things. Get involved! Try to attend as many events as possible. As a French major, you have a special responsibility to use and promote French on campus in every way possible.
How successful you are as a French major or minor will not only depend on your performance in class, but also on the extent to which you seek out resources across campus that will help you in all areas of your language and knowledge acquisition.

**People:**
You might first think of technology and other study tools when you imagine important resources that are available to you on campus. However, perhaps the most important resource to seek out is the contact you can make with the people connected with the French program. **Your French faculty and fellow students will quickly become invaluable resources.** Get to know all four members of the French faculty, starting with your advisor with whom you will work closely planning the course of your academic career at Valpo.

Most especially, you will want to make the most of the presence of native speakers on campus. Native speakers of French come to us from a variety of places:

- **The French House Program Assistant** comes to us as an exchange student from l’université de Cergy-Pontoise. The French House P.A. is on campus for an entire academic year and serves as a resource to French House residents and other French students as well.

- Each fall we welcome several French students from l’université de Cergy-Pontoise who are on campus as exchange students, taking courses alongside your American peers. You, as a French major, will want to get to know these students especially if you plan to head to Cergy-Pontoise yourself in the spring. Personal connections made here at VU will certainly make your transition to life in France a bit smoother and more enriching.

- Nearly each year we also welcome French students from La Rochelle and Compiègne. Students come to Valpo from our exchange partners at La Rochelle International Business School as well as L’université de Technologie Compiègne.

Seizing the chance to interact with native speakers of French will not only help you improve your language skills but also enrich your cultural understanding of the French-speaking world. There are many opportunities for true exchanges of conversation, culture, and ideas between our French majors and minors and native speakers outside the classroom, and we hope that you will seek out these exchanges whenever possible.
To schedule an appointment with the French language partner, check availability on TutorTrac, linked to the LRC homepage.

The Language Resource Center is another great resource that students of French should become familiar with early in their studies at Valpo. Located in the College of Arts and Sciences building, the LRC provides tutoring and other resources for language study as well as opportunities for authentic language use through conversation programs, enrichment activities and other exchanges. Students will discover a welcoming setting with a global focus where all Valpo language learners, including international students, can cultivate intercultural understanding and connections.

• French Language Partner Program:
   When you begin your French studies, you should become acquainted with the French language partner who works in the LRC during set hours. As a 204 or 220 student you might need clarification on a grammar point or want a peer French major to look over a paper you’ve written. The French language partner can also suggest learning strategies, highlighting not only what to study but how to study. As an advanced student, you might want to practice your speaking skills outside of class -- the French language partner is always pleased to chat in French with a fellow student. As your own language skills develop, the French faculty may consider you for the position and invite you to apply! Check the LRC website to find the French language partner’s set hours for the current semester. You can stop by LRC in ASB 240 for a drop-in session or make an appointment through TutorTrac.

• TV5 Monde French television:
   In the LRC students can watch TV5 Monde, an all-French channel that is an endless source of authentic French and Francophone programming. Stop by anytime during regular hours, even if you only have a few minutes before your next class, to watch some French TV and catch up on l’actualité française. This channel is also available in the student lounges in each residence hall on campus.

• Dictionaries, reference, & enrichment materials:
   At the LRC resource counter students will find several excellent dictionaries, reference support and take-home materials on a variety of language learning strategies. The LRC lounge displays books of general and cultural interest along with a small library of fictional works in French, Games and other enrichment materials are also available.

• French lending library:
   Students may check out any of the French books or films we have in our collection. You can browse the holdings by going to the LRC website. To borrow a film or book, consult the LRC kiosk to see if the item is available and then speak with a LRC staff member.

• Kitchenette:
   In the LRC, the kitchenette area makes it possible for language clubs and other student groups to hold certain activities that involve, bien sûr, food. The LRC aims to become the natural destination for students of French who want to plan events and social gatherings that bring together members of Valpo’s French-speaking community.
Did you know you can watch TV5 Monde in the LRC?

**Library resources:**

There are other important resources you should seek out in order to make the most of your experience as a French major or minor. The Christopher Center Library contains a wealth of resources to be used in conjunction with coursework in French.

- **Dictionaries:** Within the Reference section (second floor), you will find numerous dictionaries and other linguistic resources. Check out the sections marked Ref. PC2591 - PC2640.

- **Books:** For primary and secondary sources regarding French literature, go to the fourth floor of the library and look under the call numbers PQ 1-3999. For books on French history and civilization, look under the call numbers DC 1-947 on the third floor.

- **Journal articles:** Though we do not have extensive journal resources in print, we do have a subscription to the French Review. For other major journals in French studies, consult the following online databases: MLA Bibliography, JSTOR, and Project MUSE. If articles are not available electronically in full text, make use of Interlibrary Loan to order copies of the sources you need.

- **Films:** In addition to the French films available in the LRC, the Christopher Center maintains a rich collection of French films on DVD and VHS (located across from Grinder’s on the ground floor of the library).

- **Help pages:** For a more detailed description of library resources in French, consult the library Help Pages for various French courses (http://libguides.valpo.edu/frenchstudies).

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**Where to find French books at the library:**

- **French literature**
  - 4th floor
  - PQ 1 - 3999

- **French history & civilization**
  - 3rd floor
  - DC 1 - 947
Activities

Much of your formal learning as a French major or minor will occur in the classroom setting, but there are naturally many other avenues by which you will develop your skills and knowledge. Immersion in French language and culture can occur through contact with native speakers on campus, study abroad, living in the La maison française, and participation in the Esprit français and the Cercle français.

En bref...

- Esprit français
- Cercle français
- Other opportunities
- Study abroad options:
  - Paris-Internship
  - Cergy-Pontoise
  - La Rochelle for Business International Engineering
- French House

Esprit français

The Esprit français is a series of French language and culture events organized by the French faculty. Ranging from career workshops to occasional field trips to see French art in Chicago, these events provide many opportunities to increase your exposure to French language and culture outside of class. At the same time, the Esprit français aims to build community among all French students tout en s'amusant. Check out the French program’s online events calendar to see the events planned for any given semester.

Cercle français

In addition to the Esprit français, the Cercle français is a student-run French Club that organizes numerous activities for students of French each academic year:

- Crêpe-making (and eating!)
- Bûche de Noël gathering
- Game nights
- Film nights
- End-of-the-year dîner
- Foire aux fromages - French cheese-tasting event

Other opportunities

You will naturally want to pursue other French-related activities in order to develop your French skills and knowledge, while gaining experience, trying new things, expanding your social network, and becoming a participating member of the Valpo campus community. All students are invited to read a favorite poem at the À haute voix event. Also, you might sign up for the French Drama Practicum, a one-credit course, and perform as an actor in the Fête du théâtre. Your French professors will let you know about other great opportunities to get involved!
### Study abroad

The French faculty strongly encourage every major to study abroad, and in fact nearly 80% of students pursuing a French major at VU spend a semester in France. You can choose from no less than five different programs, each with a different focus and organization. Detailed descriptions of each program can be found on the web at [www.valpo.edu/studyabroad](http://www.valpo.edu/studyabroad). We have summarized for you below what makes each program unique so that in consultation with your advisor, you can determine which program is right for you:

### Paris-Internship Program through Boston University

Ideal for students who want **work experience in France** through a rigorous internship.

- One-semester program (fall or spring) at the Boston University Study Center.
- First 8 weeks: intensive language course plus courses in contemporary French politics, arts, or economic studies.
- Second 8 weeks: full-time internship.
- VU affiliate since 1988; located in Paris.
- Students may live with a French family, or may be housed in a French student residence hall.

### Nantes - new in 2016!

Ideal for students who wish to **focus on language immersion** in a rich cultural center outside of Paris.

- One-semester program (fall or spring) in the historic center of Nantes, a modest-sized city on the western edge of the Loire valley.
- Language and content courses taught at center.
- Affiliated with *Université de Nantes* at which students can choose additional coursework from a wide-range of possibilities.
- Housing is handled through homestays with French families carefully vetted by IES.

### Cergy-Pontoise

Ideal for students who are independent and flexible and seek personalized assistance within the context of **full immersion in a French university setting**.

- Spring-semester exchange program at *Université de Cergy-Pontoise*, a university of 12,000 students.
- Students take French-language and other classes along with French and international students.
- Program established in 2006; located 40 minutes northwest of Paris.
- VU tuition plus additional study-abroad fee.
- Students are housed in one of several residence halls, in private rooms with some kitchen facilities.

### All students must start their online application process through Valpo’s Office of International Programs:

[www.valpo.edu/study-abroad](http://www.valpo.edu/study-abroad)

studyabroad@valpo.edu

464.5333

Harre Union, 2nd floor

### Coming Soon--AUCP in Aix-en-Provence

Pending an official agreement with the university, we hope to add this program beginning in spring semester 2017. Stay tuned for more details!
La Rochelle for Business

Ideal for students who are studying business and have less French-language experience. This program requires completion of FLF 203 (all other programs require FLF 204).

- Spring-semester program at LRISB (La Rochelle International Business School-Groupe Sup de Co), a private college of about 1600 students.
- Courses in Business Administration and in French as a foreign language conducted in French and English.
- Program established in 2008; located in La Rochelle on France’s Atlantic Coast.
- VU tuition plus additional study-abroad fee.
- The LRISB International Office will assist students in choosing one of a variety of housing options, from homestays to residence halls.

International Engineering

Ideal for students who plan to major in Engineering and want to pursue their French studies in the hopes of working internationally upon graduation.

- One-year program at our exchange university in Compiègne which serves students enrolled in the VIEP-French (Valparaiso International Engineering Program). In this 5-year VIEP program, students head to France in their 4th year, taking classes in the fall and completing an internship in the spring.

General Study Abroad Requirements

- An overall GPA of 3.0
- At least sophomore status, and completion of FLF 204 (Exception: La Rochelle for Business requires FLF 203)
- Approval by French faculty

Application Process

Students must apply for all study abroad programs through the Office of International Programs. All costs and other details can be obtained through this office. Some programs may require additional applications, so inquire early. At the same time, it is important to consult with your French advisor as early as possible -- especially if you are planning on a year’s study in France. Freshman year is not too early to begin planning for study abroad.

Deadline for Spring 2017:
October 1, 2016

Deadline for Fall 2017:
March 1, 2017
French House

Though hardly any experience is as rich as living abroad in France, another opportunity for immersion is living in La maison française. Living in the French House means that you will:

• Commit to speaking French in an intentional immersion environment.
• Share daily evening meals with your fellow residents.
• Interact with the native-speaker Program Assistant.
• Help to promote the use of French and knowledge of French culture through active participation in activities organized by the Cercle français.
• Integrate living and learning in this unique community environment.

Beacon Hall

The French House is located in Beacon Hall, a co-ed, suite-style residence hall. Students cook meals together in the communal kitchen while speaking French under the guidance of the native-speaker program assistant.

Dining Services offers a meal plan that accommodates the need for students to prepare evening meals. Sophomores and juniors will purchase a reduced meal card to use for breakfast and/or lunch elsewhere on campus. Seniors are not required to purchase a meal card.

Additional Amenities:
• 24 hour computer lab
• Large study and community spaces throughout building
• Meditation Room
• Floor lounges with cable TV
• Kitchen space on each floor
• Recreation area in the basement
• Laundry facilities in the basement
• Large screen television in first floor lounge

valpo.edu/reslife/halls/beacon

Application Process:
• In order to live in the French House, you must first complete French 204 and must be a sophomore, junior, or senior.

• A committee of faculty and staff will review your application. Decisions are made based on GPA, language ability and willingness to participate in communal life. Seniority and gender balance are also considered.

• We will let you know whether or not you have been selected well in advance of the campus-wide room selection process.

Professor Duvick can provide additional details, so you should meet with her if you are interested in learning more.
Randa.Duvick@valpo.edu  |  219.464.5169

The deadline to submit your application to live in the French House is the Monday of the last week in January.
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:

- **Guillaumeant 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](http://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.
What Comes Next?

I have a major (or minor) 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.

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
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

* Sam: works in Chicago for Orange, a French telecommunications company
* Tina: Vice President of a securities trading company with an MBA from Northwestern U.


* 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
* Ali: Assistante d’anglais (English Teaching Assistant), French public schools

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

* Barrett: award-winning sommelier and wine educator, New Jersey
* Christopher: Dean of the Culinary School of Kendall College, Chicago, IL

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

* Nicole: Media relations director, Valparaiso University

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

Explore profiles of Valpo graduates:
valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french/profiles and
valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/french/careers
**Fulbright scholarships**
More than 800 American students are offered grants yearly to study, teach English, and conduct research in more than 100 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.

**Over 30 Valpo students have won Fulbright scholarships since 2000** to teach or conduct research in Egypt, China, South Korea, Germany and six other countries. Valpo had two recipients in 2011 and three in 2012.

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

VU Contact: Anna Stewart, Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences and Fulbright Advisor Anna.Stewart@valpo.edu | x 6765

College of Arts & Sciences, 210

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.D.s, 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.

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.

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 that follows this section.

Some graduates have chosen to spend some time doing service work right after graduation in programs like Americorps or Teach for America. Some have traveled to Francophone countries like Madagascar for service opportunities.

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

• Internships
  Internships USA (in the US)  www.usa-internships.com
  Federal Government Internship Opportunities  www.gogovernment.org
  Simplyhired.com (in the US)  www.simplyhired.com
  Intern Abroad  www.goabroad/intern
  (Lists Federal internships and other student programs)
  CDS International  www.culturalvisitas.org
  Idealist  www.idealist.org
  Washington Internship Institute  www.wiidc.org/
  Interexchange (Au Pair USA)  www.interexchange.org
  Working abroad, international careers  www.transitionsabroad.com
  U.S. Intelligence Agencies  www.intelligence.gov

• 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  hwwww.federaljobs.net/overseas
  Riley Guide International Resources  www.rileyguide.com
  Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages  www.tesol.org
  United Nations  www.un.org
  US Department of State/Foreign Service  careers.state.gov
French Faculty 2016-2017

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Prof. Goss, Language Resource Center Director
Carol.Goss@valpo.edu
219.464.5764
Arts and Sciences building, 240

Prof. Tomasik, French Chair
Timothy.Tomasik@valpo.edu
219.464.5263
Arts and Sciences building, 268

Language Resource Center 219.464.5764
Department Main Office 219.464.5341
Registrar's Office 219.464.5212
**Course Rotation  2016/17 – 2019/20**

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

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