If you’re interested in both French and Italian, this is the major for you, as you’ll get a strong background in each language. Additionally, you will learn about cultural, historical, and linguistic links between Italy, France, and the Francophone world as well as specific works in each nation’s literature. This comparative perspective will introduce you to a broad range of issues and cultural practices.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study French and Italian Studies at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Committed to public health development in an international context, French major Jane Leach jumped at the opportunity to learn abroad in Senegal, where she gained cross-cultural healthcare experience by working with mothers and babies at a rural clinic. She returned to Minneapolis with a more nuanced understanding of French studies and a renewed passion for public health. "It felt like [I had found] something I could dedicate my life to."

Read more about Jane's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad Options in French and Italian Studies: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for French and Italian Studies majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

• Le Cercle Francais
• FORO ITALIA!

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.
Undergraduate Research: Shape Your Curiosity into New Knowledge

The University has funding opportunities available for undergraduates who wish to gain research experience. Programs such as the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) gives undergraduate students the chance to work closely with faculty members on research projects. Full information about this can be found in Undergraduate Research Opportunities.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore
International Agriculture Minor
French Studies
Global Studies
Italian Studies

Associated Careers

Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations Managers; Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers; Interpreters; News Analysts, Reporters, and Correspondents; Postsecondary Teachers; Translators

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

• Course plans before transferring
• Estimated time to graduation
• Career preparation in CLA
• Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
• Connecting with major/minor departments