If you’re interested in both French, this is the major for you, as you’ll get a strong background in the language. Additionally, you will learn about cultural, historical, and linguistic links between 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.

Meet Our Students
Perhaps the first thing we think of when we think about Paris right now is the recent fire at Notre Dame. Jami Watson, a student in French at the U of M, was studying in Paris during the last academic year. She said that the experience of being in Paris when the fire broke out was “surreal to witness in person.”

Read more about Jami’s story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

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

“Majoring or minoring in French Studies means opening yourself up to the rich diversity of the French-speaking world. Studying abroad offers the unique opportunity to discover that world by finding yourself in it.”
—Bruno Chaouat, Department of French and Italian

Learn more about study abroad for French Studies majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

• Pi Delta Phi
• Le Cercle Francais

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 Faculty

New to the University of Minnesota, Assistant Professor Jennifer Row highlights the different ways her love for French has impacted her life and research. “I love how everyone here is intellectually curious, and I find inspiration from different fields and adjacent departments that I would never have expected.”

Read more about Professor Row's work.

Meet Our Alumni
“Studying in the humanities is about striving to wander and wonder, which coincides with the idea that learning is joyful in that it never ends,” says Alexandre Dubois (PhD ‘19, French studies), who now teaches at the University of Mississippi. His dissertation explores the relationship between poetry and imperial expansionism, as seen in the growth of international railways.

Read more about Alexandre’s story.

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

French and Italian Studies
Art History
Global Studies
Music

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