

FRENCH AND ITALIAN STUDIES

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

French language
Italian language
English grammar and composition

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

BA, French

Required:

Elementary French
Intermediate French
French composition

Above courses must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Transfer students may be tested by examination.

Recommended:

One year of Western civilization
One year of the history of philosophy

BA, Italian Studies

Required:

Elementary Italian
Intermediate Italian
Italian composition
(Transfer students may be tested by examination.)

Recommended:

One year of Western civilization

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

Why study French and Italian?

More than 300 million people use French and Italian in their daily lives in different parts of the world. In today's global economy, in which the European Union is increasingly important, knowledge of one or both of these languages, when combined with English fluency, offers a powerful advantage to those entering the job market or going on to graduate or professional training. Careers in all facets of international business, from marketing and media to banking, law, finance, trade, entertainment and communications, require a good grasp of at least one foreign language such as French or Italian, as do careers in international relations, diplomacy, science, teaching and the arts.

The study of French and Italian is, moreover, an intellectual adventure that leads to the core of Western civilization. In language, literature, the arts, the media, political theory, philosophy and religious thought, France and Italy have played key roles in shaping the West as we know it today. Great scientists, artists, explorers and thinkers belonging to these two cultures have radically transformed our ideas about time, being, truth, justice and power.

The French and Italian Majors:

The Department of French and Italian offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in French and the BA degree in Italian Studies. Our students of French and Italian learn to master the fundamental skills of speaking, reading and writing, and acquire a thorough background in these languages and literatures. The French major introduces students to the key texts and traditions from France, Belgium, Canada, the Caribbean, Africa and other French-speaking countries in the world. The Italian Studies major emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the Italian-speaking world, by combining the arts, humanities and social sciences. Our French and Italian majors also double major with Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Global Studies, History, Music, History of Art, Film and Media Studies, Theater and Dance, or Feminist Studies, to name a few examples. Classes within the department are small enough to assure that students receive the personal attention they need.

The World from Another Perspective:

Access to study abroad and travel opportunities prepare our students for careers in which they can contribute to the emerging global world culture. Special opportunities available to French and Italian students include the University of California's Education Abroad Program (EAP). In France, the EAP has undergraduate study centers in Paris, Bordeaux, Grenoble and Lyon. In Italy, the EAP has undergraduate study centers in Bologna, Padua and Rome, as well as specialized programs for undergraduates at the Bocconi University Business School in Milan and the Medical School of the University of Padua. UCSB students also may participate in a one-semester or Summer quarter language study program at the University of Italian Studies for Foreigners in Siena, Italy. The study of French and/or Italian language and civilization, as well as the opportunities to study abroad, are your passport to making friends, establishing business contacts and interacting on the world stage.

Excellence and Honors:

The Department offers an Honors Program for qualified students in both French and Italian. Annually, a number of our undergraduate French students are invited to join Pi Delta Phi, the national French Honor Society, and to compete for the Hermione Chevalier Prize. Top Italian Studies majors are eligible to compete for the annual honors thesis prize. French and Italian students who successfully complete a 20-page essay through the Honors Program will graduate with Distinction in the Major.

A Variety of Career Opportunities:

Critical skills that one acquires through the study of language, literature and culture include the ability to analyze information and to communicate ideas effectively in both oral and written forms. By achieving cross-cultural awareness, competency and adaptability, our students gain skills that are relevant to a wide variety of job situations.

Teaching is one of the first career choices of our students. Those interested in teaching French or Italian at the university level should plan to complete the Ph.D. degree. Students interested in teaching at the community college level should pursue graduate work at least through the Master's degree. Teaching at the high school (secondary) level requires a California Single Subject Teaching Credential. Students considering this last option should discuss their plans with the credential advisor in UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education early in their academic careers.

Other career opportunities include translating and interpreting, journalism, publishing, foreign service, civil service, humanitarian aid, international business, international relations, travel and tourism, library sciences, and other international, non-governmental organizations.

For more information on UCSB's French and Italian majors, please call or email:

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