**French**

**Description of Major**
The French discipline is designed to teach skills necessary for communicating with a variety of French-speaking peoples and to introduce their rich cultures, including their ideas, institutions, and writings, past and present. It invites student to look at the impact these cultures have had on Western civilization and to examine all of them critically.

**Skills**
A liberal arts education and study in a particular major will lead to the acquisition of a group of skills which enable one to solve problems, communicate effectively, and perform complicated tasks. These skills are essential in any career. The following is a list of important and commonly agreed upon career skills identified by UMM French faculty as a part of the project to Improve Public Understanding of Liberal Learning (IMPULL). The skills are those which all or most students studying French are likely to acquire through classroom instruction, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities.

### Leadership/Management Skills:
- judging
- applying data
- taking risks
- initiating projects or ideas
- identifying alternative courses of action
- managing time, energy and resources effectively
- understanding the feelings of others
- conceptualizing
- organizing
- analyzing
- making and keeping a schedule
- using tact, diplomacy, discretion
- identifying the critical issues and making decisions quickly and accurately

### Communication/Writing Skills:
- comprehending written material
- persuading others to accept ideas
- speaking effectively to another individual
- speaking effectively to groups
- demonstrating premises and reasoning to their conclusion
- translating written material
- using creative writing techniques
- expressing one's wants, needs, opinions and preferences without violating the rights of others
- identifying and communication value judgments effectively
- ability to articulate
- written linguistic skills in foreign languages
- ability to hear and answer questions perceptively
- writing effectively
- using argumentation techniques to persuade others
- writing factual material clearly and concisely
- critiquing, editing, proofreading
- expressing one's feeling appropriately
- verbal linguistic skills in foreign languages
- verbal linguistic skills in foreign languages
- briefing
- explaining
- advising
- informing
- instruction
- discussion group leadership
- group dynamics
- teaching a skill, concept or principle to others

### Research/Analytical Skills:
- sorting data and objects
- cataloging information
- understanding and using organizing principles
- developing new approaches to problems
- conducting surveys and interviews
- organizing and classifying
- breaking down principles into parts
- reviewing large amounts of material and extracting essence
- perceiving and defining cause and effect relationships
- applying appropriate methods to test the validity of data
- formulating questions to clarify a particular problem or issue
- compiling and selecting information
- applying information creatively to solve specific problems
- evaluating information against appropriate standards
- gathering information
- using a variety of sources of information
- analyzing and evaluating ideas and presentations
- reading editing
- identifying information sources appropriate to special needs or problems
- analyzing the interrelationships of events and ideas from several perspectives

### Artistic/Creative Skills:
- creative writing
- sensitivity of and appreciation of beauty in the environment
- aware of the value of symbolism
- dealing creatively with symbols or images
- skill in symbol formation

**Jobs Obtained by UMM French Graduates**

Studies conducted by the UMM Career Center have shown that graduates obtain jobs that are both related to their major and jobs that may not be formally related to the major. About 54% of the French graduates from 1964 -1998 said their job was in the same field or related to their undergraduate major. Other studies have shown that liberal arts graduates find employment that makes use of their skills, special knowledge, values, and interests, even though the employment field may not be related to their academic major. Listed below are some jobs obtained by UMM French graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accountant</th>
<th>Legal Editor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable Clerk</td>
<td>Marketing Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney</td>
<td>Math Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial/Residential Landlord</td>
<td>Postal Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Manager</td>
<td>Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database Programmer</td>
<td>Purchasing Agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Family Educator</td>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities Planning and Management Director</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Administrator</td>
<td>Tour Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resource Director</td>
<td>Trainer and Administrative Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resource Specialist</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are many occupations that do not require a specific undergraduate major; they are often learned as a result of on-the-job training rather than prior education. What is sought among prospective employees is the development of certain skills and abilities that can be developed not only through an academic major but through courses taken as part of one's general education, and through internships, directed studies, tutorials, seminars, study abroad, work-study and summer employment, and volunteer experiences.

[Foreign Languages](Adobe Acrobat Supplement)
[Graduate/Professional Schools in French](Links to French Jobs)
[FSU Match Major Sheets](FSU Match Major Sheets)
French Links

French Career Information Links:

- Bilingual-Jobs.com
- Anne Whitten Bilingual
- Language Teaching Center

French Career Information:

- UNCWIL
- Virginia Tech

Studying in France:

- Montclair U