

# MA in French Instruction Program Guide

Department of French & Italian  
Academic Year 2024-25



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## Introduction

The Master's Program in French Instruction at Indiana University draws on the Department of French & Italian's strengths in French and Francophone literature, culture, and linguistics, as well as the offerings of related departments such as Second Language Studies and the School of Education's graduate program in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education. The MAFI is a terminal MA degree; students wishing to continue to the Ph.D. in French Linguistics or French/Francophone Studies should consult with the appropriate Director of Graduate Studies.

The MA in French Instruction is designed for graduate students who anticipate a career in French teaching in a private primary or secondary school or a small college. The program includes study in French language, literature, civilization, pedagogy, and applied linguistics. A total of 30 credit hours are required, of which at least 20 hours must be taken in the Department of French and Italian. In the first year of graduate work, students must enroll in four courses within the Department. No more than six hours at the 400-level may count toward the degree, unless expressly approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. State teacher certification is not included in the program, but it may be obtained by completing additional credit hours, including student teaching, through the Indiana University School of Education. For more details on licensure, please contact [license@iu.edu](mailto:license@iu.edu) or (812) 856-8500.

## Degree Requirements

For full information on Graduate School policies, please consult the Indiana University Graduate School Bulletin online at the following URL:

<https://bulletins.iu.edu/iub/index.html>

- 30 credit hours of graduate work with at least 21 hours in French.
- Completion of required courses: F572, F573, and F580. Additional work must include at least one course in French Linguistics and one course in pedagogy/acquisition, as well as two courses in French/Francophone Studies.
- Oral proficiency in French as demonstrated by interview at the end of the first year. See more information under *Language Proficiency* below.
- Written exams in the following 2 areas (one essay in French):
  - applied French linguistics
  - Foreign language methodology/second language acquisition.
- Oral exam in Francophone civilization or literature.
- No thesis.

## Coursework

### I. Required course work

All students must complete the following courses, for a total of seven credits. See the Graduate School Bulletin for descriptions of courses.

- F572 Practicum in College French Teaching (1 cr)
- F573 Methods of College French Teaching (3 cr)
- F580 Applied French Linguistics (3 cr)

### II. Individualized Coursework

Students must choose courses from the categories below, for a total of twelve credits. Choice of courses should be made in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. Other courses not specifically listed may be approved by the DGS.

1. Two courses in French/Francophone Studies (500 level or above, 3 cr. each)
2. One French Linguistics course (in addition to F580) at the 500 level or above
3. One course in Foreign Language Methodology, Applied Linguistics and Language Acquisition

Possible courses to fulfill this requirement:

Course in the **Department of French and Italian:**

F673 Topics in Learning and Teaching of French (3 cr)

Courses in the **School of Education:**

L520 Advanced Study in Foreign Language Teaching (3 cr)

L530 Topical Workshop in Language Education (3 cr)

Courses in the **Department of Second Language Studies:**

T522 Survey of Applied Linguistics (3 cr)

S532 Second Language Acquisition (3 cr)

Courses in the **Psychology Department:**

P438 Language and Cognition (3 cr)

### III. Additional Coursework

Courses may be chosen from the list above or approved by the DGS, for a total of 30 credit hours. If a student is interested in obtaining a minor to be accredited to teach another subject in addition to French, they should consult with the School of Education to find out how many credit hours of course work in the minor field are required.

## Language Proficiency

There is no language requirement other than proficiency in French. At the end of the first year of graduate study, students must arrange for an ACTFL OPI and send results to FRIT. A score equivalent to “Advanced High” on the ACTFL/ETS scale (2+ on the ILR scale) is required. Should a student fail to attain a score of Advanced high, specific remedial coursework may be required.

## The Exams

All graduate students in French Instruction are required to pass a series of examinations in order to fulfill degree requirements. The exams allow students to demonstrate their proficiency in French, their knowledge in several fields, and their ability to synthesize, organize, and present material in written and oral form. To qualify for the Master’s exams, students must have completed all courses previously taken. Specifically, students with Incompletes will not be allowed to sit for the exams.

The Graduate Student Services Coordinator maintains and makes accessible a file of the exams given at the three most recent sittings. These exams can be found on OneDrive, in a folder titled FRIT Graduate Student Resources. The direct link is [here](#).

### I. Examination schedule

The written exams are administered twice yearly, upon request, in August and January. The oral exam is scheduled in consultation with the two faculty members who will conduct the exam (see below). Students should take the exams no later than the fourth semester of their program. Students must sign up for the exams with the Graduate Student Services Coordinator no later than 60 days prior to the exams.

### II. Written exams

Candidates will write two exams in the following fields: Applied Linguistics and Foreign Language Methodology/Second Language Acquisition. One essay of one exam must be written in French. The two exams, each 2.5 hours in length, are administered on the first or second Saturday following the first day of classes of the semester.

### III. Oral exam

In addition to the written exams, each candidate must pass an oral exam in either Civilization or Literature. This exam will consist of a 45-minute question and answer session;

questions will reflect the coursework completed by the candidate. The examiners (two faculty members from the Department of French and Italian) are selected by the student in consultation with the DGS.

#### **IV. Passing and retakes**

The candidate must attain a grade no lower than B- on each of the exams in order to pass. Should a candidate fail any of the exams and wish second consideration for the degree, they have one opportunity to retake the failed exam(s) during the following semester at the regularly scheduled examination time. No MA degree will be awarded unless a passing grade is achieved on each of the exams.

**Note:** Once you pass the MA exam and fulfill all requirements presented above, please follow the guidelines in Section 2: Graduate Student Handbook to apply for the MA degree. It is not automatically awarded to you.

#### **Time Limit**

The requirements for the MA degree must be completed within five consecutive years. All transfer credits must also be completed within five years. Revalidation of coursework completed before this five-year period is possible in exceptional cases (see the Graduate School bulletin.)

#### **Mentors**

During their first semester on campus, students will be assigned a peer mentor, that is, a doctoral student in our department with similar interests who can help the new student find their way, answer questions or provide informal advice. New students may also be invited to choose a faculty mentor whose role is to serve as informal academic advisor, providing additional support beyond that offered by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS will facilitate selection of mentors.