French

The French major combines opportunities for personal enrichment with the practical skills required in this age of globalization. Students learn about a foreign culture while perfecting their language skills. French is widely spoken on five continents and in many countries by approximately 200 million people. It is among the principal languages of diplomacy and of important international organizations.

France is the fourth largest economy in the world and is at the center of the European market. French is also an official language of Canada, and Francophone culture is alive and well in many regions of the United States.

As many American companies are French-owned, France has a significant business and economical presence in the U.S. Some of the most famous French-owned companies are Dannon, Yoplait, Total, Gas stations, Nissan, Nivea, DKNY, Airbus and L’Oréal. A degree in French is a plus for a student who wants to join one of these companies.

A Distinctive Program

The French program at Stetson University is designed to teach language through content and context. Study abroad in Avignon is integrated in the program. Additionally, classes are taught by native speakers.

Academics and Research

Independent research

Independent research has been conducted by students on many literary or cultural topics as well as independent studies in research methodology.

Facilities and opportunities

The French program is part of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, which is housed in Sampson Hall at Stetson University's DeLand campus. Tutors are available to students in the language commons. For interested students, the department offers a French club and a French film series. Students also gather a few times per week at French conversation tables. All classes are taught in smart classrooms and technology is widely used in the classroom.

Preparation for graduate study

Students who wish to pursue graduate studies may receive recommendations from faculty members.

Awards and Recognition

Distinguished faculty
The department is comprised of native speakers; all instructors have doctorates.

Grant-funded research
Students are encouraged to begin their senior research over the summer between their junior and senior years, particularly as part of the Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience, which provides funding for equipment, room and board and travel.

Beyond the Classroom

Internships
The department is currently creating an internship program.

After Stetson

Diverse careers
There are many job opportunities in international organizations for French speakers. Students who plan careers in international business, tourism and hospitality, diplomacy, education, translation or interpretation will greatly benefit from a degree in French. Studying French is particularly useful to secure a career in government work or agencies. It makes it easier to find a job in embassies or in the U.S. State Department.

With a degree in French, individuals can start a career in education as a teacher or in research at the university level. It's very useful for pursuing a law degree, particularly in international and immigration law. As Quebec and the European community are active commercial partners of the U.S., having a good command of the French language is an asset in international business and marketing. A degree in French also provides opportunities for a career in international nonprofit work, journalism, communications and social services.

Our recent graduates have obtained jobs in many sectors of the working world, in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to jobs in education, they have secured careers in the computer industry, customer services, corporate securities law, human resource management, legal and paralegal support services, accounting, public relations and political science.