Our department offers French, German, Italian, Spanish, Linguistics, Film Studies, Literature in Translation, Education, Humanities, and FYW courses that can count toward a variety of majors and interdisciplinary minors. Through the development of competency in other languages and cultures, our students acquire global fluency and practice invaluable transferable skills, such as presentational and interpersonal communication; reading with a purpose; analysis of how language creates meaning; the formation, articulation and defense of a thesis; reflection; extemporaneous speech and debate; and collaboration with faculty, peers, and community partners.

**Majoring in French at Furman**

In the French section, you will find a team of five dedicated professors who strive to create high-impact learning experiences. Beyond the language requirement, our curriculum offers courses ranging from “French for the Business World” to “African Novel in French.” Over 80% of our 30-35 French majors are double majors.

A major normally consists of at least nine courses beyond FRN-201 and usually includes:

- FRN-214 French Conversation
- FRN-215 French Composition
- 28 more credits in French courses numbered 220 or greater including at least one course numbered between 400 and 470.

All majors must enroll in at least one course in their major language during both their junior and senior years.

**Your Francophone community on campus**

Whether you are enjoying a cup of coffee in our newly remodeled Modern Language Center, attending one of our three weekly “Café français,” checking out our film night, or attending one of our many social events, you will be able to connect with other Francophiles around campus. You will also have the opportunity to live in our French House with the Language House Assistant, a native French speaker who facilitates activities.

Find us on:

- Instagram @furman_mll
- Facebook “French at Furman”
Expand your horizons with Study Away

Our Fall in Versailles program offers a core curriculum in French language, literature, culture, and architectural history, with some courses taught at the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. The program features excursions to striking local sites throughout the country. Participants experience full cultural and linguistic immersion through host family residence in Versailles, just a 35-minute train ride away from the significant artistic, historic and cultural treasures of Paris. You can also participate in “The Rhine: Life on the Line,” a May Experience program exploring the border area where today’s France, Germany, and Switzerland meet.

Experience the professional world

Many of our majors complete domestic and international French-speaking internships. Recently, students have interned at the prestigious Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris and at a web editing company in Clermont-Ferrand. Each summer a French major who also specializes in Politics and International Affairs interns at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa. Local opportunities include interpreting for refugees or serving as a language immersion teaching assistant. Internship experiences can receive course credit through FRN-503 or FRN-505. Financial support is available thanks to our competitive Childers award.

Beyond Furman

Our alumni work in a variety of professional fields: law, medicine, foreign service, business, marketing, teaching, non-profit, or journalism. Foreign Service officer Peter Lord ’02 explains: “French at Furman was an opportunity for me to develop a deep understanding of both the mechanics of language and how we communicate to be understood. As a diplomat, those skills remain at the core of what I do.” CDC epidemiologist Maryam Haddad ’92 adds: “Writing well and speaking French and Spanish has opened professional doors for me that I’m not sure would have opened otherwise.”

A Furman French Pathway: Emma Waters ’17

“In four years The Furman Advantage took me all over the world, introduced me to valuable mentors, and helped me develop my passions. From living in the French Language House with other Furman francophiles, to studying in Versailles, to working as an intern in the Canadian Parliament, I expanded the skills I learned in the classroom. Senior year I created an independent study course focused on translation, which I combined with an internship at a local non-profit. These experiences gave me a perspective on my French degree I could not have seen from simply behind a desk.”