

FRENCH M.A. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in French must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours (aside from deficiencies) of graduate course work.

The M.A. exam will typically be administered within two weeks of Spring Break, on a day and time that are acceptable to candidates and faculty. The first step is a written exam. If the student passes the written, the oral can be scheduled.

Students are expected to prepare the M.A. reading list on their own, though most of the readings are covered in classes. The majority of the exam is based on the M.A. reading list, but anything from the classes students have taken is also fair game. During the semester of the comprehensive exam, each student will submit to the graduate advisor a list of the courses in which they have been/are enrolled.

Please note that independent work is an integral part of any successful graduate school experience!

The written exam will consist of 40 identifications (out of 50). You will have 3 hours to complete the exam. Exams will be evaluated by all French faculty. Students should meet with the graduate advisor before the oral in order to discuss weaknesses in the written.

The oral exam will typically occur within a week from the date of the written, and will last about an hour. The oral is a forum for further questions on the topics covered in the written, as well as anything else that might come up naturally in the course of the discussion.

Both the written and the oral will be evaluated using the following scale:

5 = strong pass

4 = pass

3 = low pass

0-2 = fail

Students must receive an average of 3 on the written in order to move on to the oral. The written may be re-taken one time.

The successful completion of the M.A. degree in French depends on satisfactory performance in course work and on the comprehensive exam. Additionally, we expect the quality of the candidates' spoken and written French to be excellent.

MIDDLE AGES

- *La Chanson de Roland*
- Chrétien de Troyes: *Yvain, Lancelot, Perceval*
- *La Farce de Maître Pathelin*
- Rutebeuf: *Le Miracle de Théophile*
- *Aucassin et Nicolette*
- *Tristan et Iseut*
- Marie de France: *Lais* (“Bisclavret,” “Lanval,” “Laüstic,” “Équitan,” “Yonec,” “Les Deux Amants”)
- Fabliaux covered in Medieval Literature course
- Poetry covered in Medieval Literature and Survey of Poetry courses

16th CENTURY

- Rabelais: *Pantagruel, Gargantua*
- Montaigne: *Essais* covered in 16th-century course
- Navarre: *Heptaméron*: Prologue and Nouvelles 1-10
- Poetry covered in 16th-Century Literature and Survey of Poetry courses

17th CENTURY

- Corneille: *Horace, Le Cid*
- Racine: *Andromaque, Phèdre*
- Molière: *Tartuffe, Dom Juan*
- Mme de Lafayette: *La Princesse de Clèves*
- Pascal: *Les Pensées* (Classiques Larousse)
- La Rochefoucauld: *Maximes* (Classiques Larousse)
- Guilleragues: *Lettres portugaises*
- Poetry covered in Survey of Poetry course

18th CENTURY

- Montesquieu: *Lettres persanes*
- Voltaire: *Candide*
- Rousseau: *Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire*
- Laclos: *Les Liaisons dangereuses*
- Diderot: *La Religieuse*
- Graffigny: *Lettres d'une Péruvienne*
- Chénier: “La Jeune Captive”
- Prévost: *Manon Lescaut*
- Some knowledge of *L'Encyclopédie*

19th CENTURY

- Chateaubriand: *René*
- Sand: *Indiana*
- Balzac: *Le Père Goriot*
- Stendhal, *Le Rouge et le noir*
- Flaubert: *Madame Bovary*
- Zola: *L'Assommoir*
- Maupassant, *Boule de suif*
- Poetry covered in Survey of Poetry course

20th / 21st CENTURIES

- Gide: *L'Immoraliste*
- Proust: *Combray*
- Sartre: *Huis Clos*
- Colette: *La Vagabonde*
- Camus: *La Peste*
- Butor: *La Modification*
- Breton: *Nadja*
- Ernaux: *La Place*
- Modiano: *Accident nocturne*
- Le Clézio, *Poisson d'or*
- Poetry covered in Survey of Poetry course

Students should know the basics of the various literary movements and trends in each period (e.g. Classicism, Romanticism, Naturalism, Surrealism, Existentialism, the Absurd, etc.) while understanding that not every work fits into a neat category.