

French and Italian

French – BA/BS, MA, PhD

French Studies – PFMP

Italian - BA/BS, MA, PhD

The Department has assessment plans for each of its three programs.

Undergraduate Programs in French and Italian:

Assessment of the undergraduate program in French is carried out by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. In Italian it is overseen by the Italian Instructional Committee. The undergraduate program in French employs review of student papers and surveys as the chief means of assessing student learning. Faculty also carefully monitor grading patterns across multi-section courses, course evaluations, and program requirements. Information from these efforts has led to a broad revision of the French curriculum, both at the course and program level. A recently instituted requirement calls for all majors to continue language study above the 300-level; student proficiency in language is to be evaluated by oral proficiency interviews. Although the undergraduate program in Italian has a series of learning goals and has, in the past, used a series of indirect measures to consider student attainment of those goals, the program intends to revise the curriculum and assessment plan to create more opportunities to measure student progress more directly. A recently instituted requirement requires Italian majors to complete Italian 230, a course that will give them more in-depth knowledge of Italian culture.

M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in French and Italian:

Assessment of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in French is handled by the Graduate Studies Committee. In Italian assessment is monitored by the Associate Chair and the Italian Instructional Committee. The Department makes use of milestones (preliminary examinations, dissertation defense, etc.) that demonstrate language proficiency, teaching skills, and academic knowledge. The Department has also surveyed enrolled graduate students and graduate alumni. Changes made as a result of assessment have been directed at ensuring timely progress to degree. The post-M.A. sequence of examinations in the French section has been revised in the past two years in function of the ongoing review by the Graduate Studies Committee of the effectiveness of the program, resulting in greater flexibility for students and an earlier and more dynamic preparation for writing the dissertation.

Professional French Masters Program in French Studies:

The Professional French Master's Program has well articulated learning goals and uses a series of authentic assessment strategies to ensure that students in this program move on to capably perform in the wide variety of professions entered after completion of the degree. The most noteworthy of these tools is a program-level evaluation of student internship reports, as well as the students professional portfolio. Students in this program also complete a master's thesis that, like the portfolio, is written and defended in French.