

WILLIAMS COLLEGE CERTIFICATE IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND FRANCOPHONE CULTURES



WHAT IS THE FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

The French Certificate is a formal program of study, consisting of 7 courses, taken at Williams and/or during study abroad. Similar to a “French minor” at other institutions, the French Certificate is formally cited on your Williams transcript, right after your major, and can be listed on your resumé. The French Certificate is ideal for those students who may not want to major in French, but who want to devote a significant portion of their studies and time to the study of French and Francophone Cultures.

WHY CONSIDER A FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

In our ever more globalized world, the study of foreign languages is essential to cultural understanding and professional success. More and more, employers and graduate schools seek out candidates who can bring excellent communication and language skills to their work. Students who have completed foreign language certificate programs during their undergraduate studies report that their interviewers are impressed with their language skills and cultural proficiency. This is as true for those attending medical, law, and business schools as it is for those pursuing careers in teaching, academia, public service, and international relations.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER A FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

If you are passionate about continuing your French studies as a non-major, the French Certificate offers a wonderful possibility to formalize your French studies at Williams. Those majoring in related fields (such as Comparative Literature, History, English, Art History, or Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) may want to add the French Certificate to their literary and linguistic accomplishments. Those majoring in other fields (in Divisions I, II, and III) may want to add the French Certificate to their academic program and their resumé, as a way of engaging more formally in French studies or showing graduate schools and employers an impressive sign of their formal training in French.

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

1. The French Certificate consists of a sequence of seven courses for which you must earn a cumulative average of B or higher. Among the 7 courses required for the French Certificate, at least 3 must be taken at Williams. You can qualify for up to 4 courses from study abroad (for either a semester or entire year), but these courses must be related to language, literature, or culture.
 - **For Students with No Prior French Background:** The course sequence usually consists of French 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105, and two additional courses in French above the 105 level, with at least one of these courses at the 200-level or higher taken at Williams.
 - **For Students Starting at French 103:** The course sequence usually consists of French 103, 104, 105, and four additional courses in French above the 105 level, with at least two of these courses at the 200-level or higher, and at least one of these courses at the 300-level or higher.
 - **For Students Starting at French 200 and higher:** The plan of study will usually consist of 7 courses, of which at least two courses should be at the 300-level or higher. Two electives may be taken in other departments: these courses must focus significantly on French or Francophone culture (art, literature, drama, music, history, political science, etc.).
 - **For Study-Abroad Courses:** When you complete the “French Certificate Final Application” during your senior year, you may also need to hand in a copy of your *Study-Abroad Transcript* (the same transcript you’ll submit to the Registrar and Tina Breakell, Director, International Education and Study Away on your return to Williams) and copies of your *Study-Abroad Course Materials*.
 - **Know Before You Go:** While you are studying abroad, you should keep a file-folder of any essential documents from your courses, including: syllabi, course descriptions, grades and transcripts, and any final written work (papers or exams) that you complete.

HOW & WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR THE FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

1. **Now:** Make a plan for completing the 7 required courses (at Williams and/or abroad).
2. **Spring Semester of Senior Year:** Complete the “French Certificate Final Application” (see below).

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FRENCH CERTIFICATE?

If you have any questions about the French Certificate, email Professor Kasha Pieprzak (kpieprza@williams.edu).

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FINAL APPLICATION

Please complete and submit this application (along with any supporting materials) to Prof. Kashia Pieprzak (Hollander 256 or kpieprza@williams.edu) by **APRIL 30**.

Name: _____

Class Year: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Academic Major: _____

Study Abroad (Program, Location, Semester/Year): _____

HOW TO APPLY

COMPLETE COURSEWORK & FILL OUT APPLICATION (April of Senior Year)

Among the 7 courses required for the French Certificate, at least 3 must be taken at Williams. You can qualify for up to 4 courses from study abroad (from either a semester or the entire year), but they should of course be related to language, literature or culture. For course credit, you need to complete this application by listing the 7 Williams and/or Study-Abroad courses that you completed. In the case of the Study-Abroad Courses, you may need to submit with your application: a copy of your *Study-Abroad Transcript* (the same transcript you submitted to the Registrar, and to Tina Breakell, Director, International Education and Study Away on on your return to Williams); and/or copies of your *Study-Abroad Course Materials* (including syllabi, course descriptions, grades, transcripts, & any final written work (papers or exams) you completed. You must hand in this completed application to a French faculty member by April 30.

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Final Application: Coursework

Please provide the following information regarding the 7 courses you want to count towards your French Certificate. Provide as much detail as possible, and follow the format below.

EXAMPLE

1. Title & Instructor: *"Histoire et Mémoire", Professor Alice Martel*
2. Institution & Department: *Hamilton Year Abroad, Univ. de Paris VII, French Dept.*
3. Reading-list: *2 Novels by Balzac (Père Goriot, Illusions perdues), poems by Baudelaire & Rimbaud, plays by Camus (Malentendu) and Sartre (Huis Clos).*
4. Course-work: *I wrote 2 10-page papers (on Balzac & Sartre) & took a 2-hour final exam.*
5. Class Meetings: *The course met 3 days a week for one hour each class.*
6. Grade for the course: *B+*
7. Brief description of the course and your experience in it: *The course analyzed 19th & 20th century historical fiction, and I learned a great deal about realism and existentialism. I wrote my final paper on Sartre and World War II.*

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 1

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 2

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 3

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 4

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 5

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 6

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____

FRENCH CERTIFICATE: COURSE 7

Title & Instructor _____

Institution & Department: _____

Reading-list: _____

Course-work: _____

Class Meetings: _____

Brief description of the course and your experience in it: _____