Master of Arts in French
Program of Studies
The Graduate Program in French of the Department of World Languages at the University of South Florida offers prospective students solid academic and practical training in the language, literature and culture of France and the French-speaking world. The graduate with a Master’s degree in French from the University of South Florida will be prepared for a number of professional possibilities including advanced academic study, business applications, and enhanced classroom teaching.

In addition to perfecting language skills, the student will take several courses surveying the major periods and genres of French and Francophone literature, from medieval romances to Enlightenment essays, nineteenth-century novels to contemporary short stories from the international Francophone community. In this regard, the program has particular strengths in the study of Quebec, the Caribbean and Africa. The student may also take courses exploring the areas of literary theory and philosophy pioneered by Roland Barthes and Michel Foucault.

However, the study of French need not be solely literary or theoretical; the recent pivotal role played by France and Belgium in the development of the European Union underscores the centuries-old international presence of French in the spheres of business and politics. Accordingly, our program affords students the opportunity to improve their knowledge of commercial French, teaching French as a second language, and research methodologies.

Graduate students who so desire and are qualified can expect to teach elementary French under the supervision of a professional classroom instructor. Our students can also expect to become proficient at using the research tools available at the University of South Florida Tampa Campus Library, which provides access to more than 1.8 million volumes and an extensive collection of electronic resources including 52,000 e-journal subscriptions, over 900 databases, more than 541,000 e-books, and 826,000 digital images. Library materials in French number approximately 190,000 of which 11,437 are available online. In addition, students have access to over 37,000 audio/visual items including CDs, videos, and DVDs. Access to research materials at other Florida state institutions are made available through the library’s participation in UBorrow, a fast and easy borrowing service established to help USF students expand their reach to other state university library collections. Additionally USF Libraries offer access to primary research materials through the Special Collections Departments which include, of special interest to French graduate students, rare books, music collections, and an extensive collection of medieval manuscripts.

A candidate to the standard Master’s degree in French can select from three options: nine courses and a thesis, twelve courses without a thesis, or, with the prior approval of the Graduate Advisor, a combination of French courses and courses in another language or field having a direct bearing on the student’s major interest. In this way, students are encouraged to create an individual, interdisciplinary program of study. The Master’s in French is a liberal arts degree which furnishes solid training in the humanities. Accordingly, the areas comprising the comprehensive examinations reflect coursework as well as widen the student’s scope with related readings under the guidance of professors.

Graduate students at the University of South Florida may also take advantage of cultural offerings in the community as well as foreign exchange opportunities. Annual International Film Festivals held in Tampa, St. Petersburg and nearby Sarasota bring
weeks of impressive screenings and symposia. Closer to home, FRAMCO and Tampa Bay
chapters of the Alliance Française sponsor a year-round schedule of lectures, films and
other cultural programming complemented by artistic exchanges between Tampa and its
sister city Le Havre. The University of South Florida also maintains educational
exchange programs with the Sorbonne, the University of Artois, and several French
business schools. Such exchanges allow our graduate students to study French or teach
English while immersed in a French environment, and at the same time allow native
French-speaking students to be an integral part of our program in Tampa.

Graduates of our program have met with considerable professional success. Many have
gone on to teach in schools (including International Baccalaureate schools) and
community colleges in Florida and elsewhere. Others have continued their doctoral
studies at universities such as NYU, Cornell, Rice, Laval, Tulane, North Carolina, LSU,
UF, FSU, and Vanderbilt, and are today professors of French at a number of colleges and
universities. Other program participants are now working in international business or
law.

Of course, the success of any graduate program rests in part on its faculty. The
professors and instructors of the Graduate French Program at the University of South
Florida, representing universities across the United States and France, deliver a
diversified curriculum while maintaining a high level of one-on-one contact with their
students.

**French Professors:**

Viviane Bekrou (Ph.D. University of Maryland) Sub-Saharan African Women Writers,
Literature of Migrations, and African Film

Gaëtan Brulotte (Ph.D. Sorbonne, Paris VII) (USF Distinguished Research Scholar,
international award-winning creative writer) 20th Century, Contemporary French
Literature, Literary Theory and Criticism, Advanced Writing, Quebec Literature and
Culture, Francophone Literature

Anne Latowsky (Ph.D. University of Washington—Seattle) Medieval Literature, Old
French, French Civilization, French Linguistics

Christine M. Probes (Ph.D. Tulane) Renaissance, 17th Century, Research Methods,
French Women Writers, African Francophone Film

Kersuze Siméon-Jones (Ph.D. University of Miami) Francophone Studies, Africana
Studies: Political and Literary History

Roberta M. Tucker (Ph.D. Chicago) Coordinator of Teaching Assistants, 18th and 19th
Centuries, Poetry, Science (especially cognitive science) and Literature, Paris Program
Director
Recent Visiting Professors have included:

Dominique Desjeux (Docteur d’Etat, Professor of Sociology and Cultural Anthropology, Sorbonne, Paris V)

The Department of World Languages also maintains a distinguished dual-Ph.D. program with the College of Education in Second-Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology.

For additional information concerning the Master of Arts in French and other opportunities for graduate study in French, please direct all inquiries to the Graduate Advisor, Dr. Roberta Tucker
tuckerr@usf.edu or in her absence Dr. Christine M. Probes probes@usf.edu

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