

Career Paths for French Studies Majors

Achieving an excellent education is about many things: becoming a well-educated citizen, gaining knowledge for thoughtful and well-considered decisions, engaging your curiosity, and developing skills that will contribute to the greater good, for example. In addition, your education also prepares you to pursue a wide variety of career paths.

Depth of knowledge generally refers to the information and ways of thinking that are directly related to your academic major. In addition, you have developed an **incredibly important set of more general skills**: to think analytically and critically; to view issues in context and from multiple perspectives; to ask and address questions about ethical and societal implications; to pursue research; to engage your creativity; and to communicate complex issues clearly. Thus, **French Studies majors** offer an array of skills which are **highly valued by employers** from all sectors.

Many Possibilities. Because your major not narrowly focused on specific career paths, you have a wide array of professional options. While this kind of career flexibility is definitely good news, it does require you to be more *proactive* in identifying and articulating your skills to potential employers.

Ready for the Work World. Five top critical skills identified by employers in a recent national survey were:

- Ability to communicate clearly
- Interpersonal / Teamwork skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making abilities
- Ability to find and process information
- Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize

Perceive patterns, structures, relationships

You have undoubtedly developed these skills while studying at UW.

JOB SKILLS RELATED TO FRENCH STUDIES MAJORS

Here are even more career-related skills and strengths that most employers seek:

Read/interpret/synthesize complex material
See situations from multiple perspectives
Communicate in more than one language
Produce effective persuasive writing
Write/revise for wide variety of audiences
Understand & appreciate cultural variations
Design and implement engaging presentations
Understand nuance and subtlety
Handle ambiguity adeptly
Apply mental agility to creative problem-solving
Understand the broader context
Gather, analyze, organize, interpret data
Summarize concisely and accurately
Link abstract concepts to practical applications

Understand human nature & its variations
Identify and explore implications
Propose and support recommendations
Simultaneously see big picture and details
Engage intellectual curiosity
Conduct research
Bring motivation, imagination, enthusiasm, initiative
Compare, contrast information / Draw conclusions
Work well individually and on teams
Understand how data can be interpreted in multiple
ways

Write, revise, edit, proofread

And many more!

NEXT PAGE: ACTUAL JOBS IN THESE THREE CATEGORIES:

- 1. French is required/preferred and the job's primary duties directly relate to your major (Entry-Level)
- 2. French is required/preferred but job's primary duties aren't directly related to your major (Entry-Level)
- 3. French isn't required or preferred but your transferable skills make you highly qualified (Entry-Level)

1. French major may be Required and the job's primary duties directly relate to Italian (Entry-Level):

Localization Editor-French (Pokemon) Medical Interpreter/Translator

Translator (many) Cultural Ambassador

Legal Interpreter/Translator Editor, English (U.N.-something to aspire to)

2. French is Required/Preferred but job's primary responsibilities aren't directly related (Entry-Level)

Localization Tester - French (Bungie)

French Speaking Support Specialist (Faneuil)

Associate Media Producer (Cengage)

Bilingual (French) Customer Care Advocate (Media Technologies)

French Bilingual - Delivery Coordinator (Pepsi)

Financial Consultant (AXA Advisors)

Bilingual French Customer Relations Associate (Rosetta Stone)

French Speaking Support Specialist (Faneuil)

Internet Marketing Specialist (Uline)

Customer Service Representative - French and English (Ogi Eyewear)

Bike Tour Guide (Trek Travel)

Enterprise Large Customer Sales Associate (Google)

Legal Assistant, Online Product Support - French (Google)

Analysts – Business Intelligence/Competitive Intelligence (Bulletin Intelligence)

Trademark Legal Assistant - French (Google)

Program Assistant Central and West Africa (National Endowment for Democracy)

Development Coordinator (America Abroad Media)

Bilingual Advocate (Center for Safety & Change)

Digital Marketing Coordinator (French Institute Alliance Française)

Program Coordinator - French Speaking (Pathfinder International)

International Student Hosting Coordinator (Intercultural Student Experiences)

Social Adjustment Services Supervisor (Refugee Services of Texas)

Executive Assistant to the Chief Program Officer (Partners In Health)

Communications Assistant (Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres)

Global Health Assistant to the Director (University of Washington)

Rule Writer Specialist – Product Compliance (Amazon Fulfillment)

3. French isn't required or preferred but your transferable skills make you highly qualified (Entry-Level):

Associate Account Strategist, University Graduate Program(Google), Service Coordinator (Choice Program), Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator (EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases), Research Associate (Environmental Law Institute), Knowledge Assistant (Children's Law Center), Recruitment & Admissions Assistant (Fund for American Studies), Partner Support Coordinator (Kiva Microfunds), Assistant Community Outreach Coordinator (Next Step Living), Change Corps Assistant Organizing Director (Work for Progress), Investigative Advocate (Disability Rights Washington), City Year - Corps Member (City Year Seattle/King County), Financial Advisor (ING Financial Partners), Patient Services Representative (Seattle Reproductive Medicine), Outreach Coordinator (MedBridge Education), Junior Project Manager (HealthPath Education), Internet Marketing Specialist (Chair 10 Marketing), Immigration Assistant/Receptionist (Law Firm), Marketing Coordinator (Yext), Account Coordinator, Employee Benefits (MCM), Executive Team Leader (Target)

More: Project Manager, Social Media Campaign Developer, Policy and Advocacy Specialist

These are just some examples.	The Career Center can help you find positions that meet your goals!