

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures/A&S

Undergraduate BA Program in French and French/Secondary Education
AY 2011-12

Key Assessment Findings

Senior Assessment

One student completed the senior assessment requirements during the AY 2011-12. The student passed all three components of the senior assessment: the written examination (Table 1), the senior thesis (Table 2) and the oral presentation of the senior thesis (Table 3). Overall in all three parts the student met expectations. The three components were graded according to the rubrics on file from the previous academic year (2010-11). They are attached in a separate file.

In order to preserve confidentiality, data is not cited or analyzed in this report.

	Fail		Pass		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	
Major: French	0	0%	1	100%	1
Major: French/Secondary Education	0	0%	0	0%	0
TOTAL	0	0%	1	100%	1

Summary and Curricular Improvements

Starting in fall 2013, there will be a change to the format of the senior seminar. Instead of the current FREN 452 (Senior Seminar), senior French majors will enroll in a new course, FREN 488 (Special Topics in French Studies) in the fall semester of their senior year. This seminar is a research seminar that prepares the students to an in-depth study of a selected topic in the literature, film, and culture of France and the Francophone countries. The content of this seminar will change each year to ensure that it is up-to-date and linked to current research in the field. The seminar will be taught by various faculty members in rotation in an effort to introduce the seniors to faculty research areas and their current projects. Students enrolled in FREN 488 will be guided through the steps involved in defining and completing a research project. They will find a topic, conduct research through intensive and in-depth study of primary and secondary source material, formulate a thesis, write a prospectus that outlines their research project, compose an outline for their research paper, and finally submit a 10-page research paper written in French by the end of the fall semester.

In the spring semester of their senior year, all French majors will enroll in FREN 489 (Senior Research Seminar). This seminar will guide the students in expanding a previously written seminar paper (ideally the paper for FREN 488) into their senior thesis. In a colloquium format, students will present their readings of the primary and secondary materials to their peers and

instructor and they will work on completing their senior thesis. An integral component of FREN 489 is to practice oral presentation skills. Students will prepare and present a number of short research presentations in class and also practice the presentation of their senior thesis. The last third of the semester will be devoted to preparing the majors to the realities of the job market. Students will compose resumes, write application letters, and practice job interviews in French.

The senior comprehensive exam will remain the same as in AY 2011/12: Students complete a research thesis (20-25 pages in French) and present it in an oral presentation to the French faculty. The rubrics for the written and oral thesis will also remain the same as for AY 2011/12.