

Student Assessment Plan
French Program
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A.

Learning Goals and Direct Assessment Tools for Current Courses

In all courses, students must:

- Demonstrate ability to communicate orally in French.
- Demonstrate ability to understand spoken French.
- Demonstrate ability to write accurately, convincingly, and in a logical, organized fashion in French.
- Demonstrate an ability to read, understand, and analyze texts written in French.
- Demonstrate cultural knowledge of the French-speaking world.

More specific goals and assessment tools related to courses are included below.

I. Elementary French Courses (French 110 and 120: language skills courses)

Learning goals: the acquisition of the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to:

- Ask and respond to questions in the past, present, future, and conditional verb tenses.
- Hold simple conversations on everyday topics in the past, present, future, and conditional.
- Express thoughts and opinions.
- Read and answer questions on texts in French based on French and Francophone culture.
- Identify Francophone countries across the globe.

Direct assessment tools in use:

- Oral and written chapter tests and quizzes (7-8 total each semester)
- Listening and writing workbook (one chapter bi-weekly, 7-8 total each semester)
- Short compositions (15-20 lines by the end of FREN 120)
- Cumulative final exam

II.

Intermediate Composition and Conversation I (French 210: a content-based language skills course)

Learning goals:

- Reinforce and broaden student mastery of French grammar through a systematic review of important forms and concepts in the language; addition of new verb tenses (plus-que-parfait, subjunctive, etc.)
- Significantly increase students' French vocabulary: 20 words/chapter for 6 chapters.

- Introduce students to short texts of French and Francophone literature and have them be able to write compositions thereon.

Direct assessment tools currently in use:

- Chapter tests and quizzes (6 total)
- Listening and writing workbook (one chapter bi-weekly)
- 2 page essays (4 total)
- Oral exams on literature and grammar (4 total)
- Cumulative final exam

III. Advanced French Composition and Conversation (French 310)

Learning goals

- To improve students' writing and speaking while continuing to further their listening and reading skills.
- To review grammar continuously throughout the course in order to strengthen students' writing and speaking skills.
- To have students reach the level of Advanced High as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Direct assessment tools currently in use:

- Written Compositions (2-5 pages; 8 total)
- In-class writing exams (2 total)
- Oral tests on oral texts such as poetry (2-3)
- Oral presentations: (4-5 total)
- Writing portfolio
- Cumulative final exam

IV. The French Short Story (FREN Special Topics, 460)

Learning goals:

Expose students to a selection of French and Francophone literary masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the 21st century and to the cultural and historical background of each text.

Foster analytical and critical thinking in students and to have them apply those tools to literature.

Direct assessment tools currently in use:

- Written exams (3 total)
- Vocabulary reading quizzes (8 total)
- Fiction writing assignments (3 total)
- Short-answer homework assignments (daily)
- Cumulative final exam

B.

Plan for Annual Assessment

In each course, questions are embedded in the written final (as well as the oral final, for language classes) which allow me to assess whether or not students reached the learning goals. In addition, graduating seniors must take the French Capstone exam which consists of both a written and an oral portion and which addresses each of the French courses studied both at Hendrix and abroad.

C.

Long-term Assessment of the French Major

This is my first year at Hendrix, but I plan to remain in touch with graduating students of French, and will have a better idea of the success of our program in the long-term in a few years' time.

