



WHICH FRENCH COURSE SHOULD YOU TAKE?

Students who are interested in taking French at EKU have several choices about where to start:

FRE 101 is for beginners, students who have had no previous French at all or very little.

FRE 102 is for students who have had FRE 101 or who took one or two French courses in high school --- and who did well in the subject.

FRE 201 is for students who have had FRE 102 or who took two or three French courses in high school --- and who did well in the subject.

FRE 202 is for students who have had FRE 201 or who took three or four French courses in high school --- and who did well in the subject.

Students with enough background in French to start the sequence in FRE 102 (instead of taking FRE 101) will be given retro-credit for FRE 101 if they make an "A" in FRE 102 --- i.e. 3 hours of "A" for 102 and 3 hours of retro-credit for 101. Students who pass FRE 102 but with a "B" or lower receive only the 3 hours credit for 102.

Students with enough background in French to start the sequence in FRE 201 will be given retro-credit for FRE 101 and FRE 102 if they make an "A" or a "B" in FRE 201--- i.e. 3 hours credit for 201 and 6 hours of retro-credit for 101 and 102.

Students with enough background in French to start the sequence in FRE 202 will be given retro-credit for FRE 101, 102, and 201 if they make an "A" or a "B" in FRE 202--- i.e. 3 hours credit for 202 and 9 hours of retro-credit for 101/102/201.

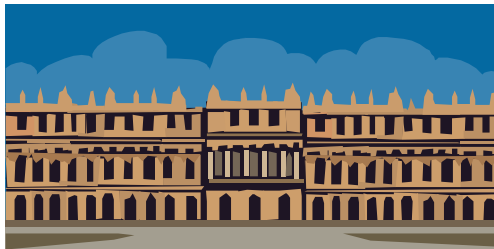
FAQs. What if... ?

- **What if you had only one year of French in high school? Or two years but you didn't do all that well?** You should probably start over in FRE 101.
- **What if you had a couple of years of French in high school and did well ("A" or "B")?** It depends on whether you might be interested in going on, beyond just one course, in French. If you have any possible interest in getting a certificate in French Conversation and Culture to enhance your résumé for a future job or graduate program, you should start in the higher level FRE 102.
- **What if you took two or three years of French in high school but you have been away from it for a year or two and you're afraid you've forgotten it?** FRE 201 would probably be a good place for you to start our basic French sequence. Don't worry too much about what you may have forgotten. If you ever learned it, you will quickly relearn



it when we review it. (We never introduce new grammar without reviewing the foundation for it.) Since FRE 101 and 102 are essentially high school level work, only courses numbered 201 and above can be counted toward a certificate or a minor or a major.

- **What if you had four years of French in high school with an "A" average? What if you had AP French?** You should probably start in FRE 202 and try for the additional 9 hours of retro-credit. It is also possible to skip all these courses and take FRE 204 or FRE 210, if either one is offered that semester, or other more advanced courses. However, the only courses that can give you retro-credit are FRE 102, 201, and 202. The retro-credit offer is only available for the first FRE course on your university transcript; it is not granted if you already have credit for other French courses.
- **What if you still aren't sure which course to start in?** Sign up for the one you think is right for you and then be sure to come to the first day's class. After we discuss the course and talk to you personally about your background and your goals, you can decide whether to stay in that course or drop it to change to another one. Keep in mind that you will need to have a free time slot for the other course and that you do not want to open the shrink-wrapped textbook until you are sure which course you are taking.
- **What if you are from a francophone country and already speak French?** We will be happy to welcome you in our courses at a more appropriate level --- but not in FRE 101/102/201/202.



What material is covered in each course? In keeping with the communicative competency trend in foreign language instruction, there is less grammar content and more emphasis on practical language use than in the past. (***Note: The description of the course contents tells you what you will learn in each course --- not what you have to know before taking it!***)

FRE 101 introduces basic vocabulary: ordering food and drinks, talking about nationalities and professions, discussing university life and leisure activities, asking for directions, etc. Basic grammar topics include verbs in the present tense (regular *-er* verbs and a few of the irregular ones such as *être, avoir, aller, faire*), definite and indefinite articles (*le, la, les, un, une, des*), possessive adjectives (*mon, ma, mes, etc.*), and a brief introduction to agreement of descriptive adjectives (ex.: *petit, petite, petits, petites*). Emphasis is on developing communication skills and on providing groundwork for further study of the basic grammar and syntax.

FRE 102 reviews concepts taught in 101, such as present tense of *-er* verbs, and introduces the past tense (*passé composé*) as well as reflexive verbs, expressions of quantity, food vocabulary and the partitive (ex.: *du pain, de la glace, des légumes*), using the Paris métro system, etc. In both FRE 101 and 102 our primary emphasis is on vocabulary enrichment, communication skills, and basic language structure.

FRE 201 reviews material previously taught in FRE 101 and FRE 102 while introducing topics for discussion such as travel and study abroad, finding hotel accommodations, health and fitness issues, etc. New vocabulary and grammar elements improve students' ability to describe people and objects and to deal with daily challenges in a French-speaking environment (university life, lodging, medical needs, etc.). Students learn the present tense of regular *-ir* verbs. The second past tense (*l'imparfait*) is introduced and students practice its uses along with a review of the *passé composé*.

FRE 202 reviews previously taught grammar, especially the verbs, and then introduces the subjunctive, the future tense, and the conditional. Discussion topics include describing an apartment or a house, using classified ads to look for housing or employment, talking about clothing, and taking trains in France. Grammar topics include object pronouns, interrogatives (*qu'est-ce qui? qu'est-ce que?*), and relative clauses with *qui* or *que* (*J'ai acheté le livre qui est sur le bureau.*)



What textbooks do we use?

The textbook for FRE 101 and FRE 102 is Allons-y!, Volume 1, Bragger and Rice, in a special split edition which includes the first half of the textbook and workbook and all the necessary CDs. Since this edition has been prepared to meet the specific needs of our courses (FRE 101 and 102) here at ECU, you will NOT be able to purchase your textbook online.

The textbook for FRE 201 and FRE 202 is Allons-y!, Volume 2, Bragger and Rice, in a special split edition which includes the second half of the textbook and workbook and all the necessary CDs. Since this edition has been prepared to meet the specific needs of our courses (FRE 201 and 202) here at ECU, you will NOT be able to purchase your textbook online.

If you have any other questions about the French courses at ECU, feel free to e-mail either of the following French faculty members:

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