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Historically France and the French language have had an enormous influence over American society. France was the United States' first ally. French thought played a dominant role among the founders of the United States in the 18th century and it continues to shape America today. In the humanities and the social sciences many of the most important writings have come from France.

Most undergraduate and graduate schools require knowledge of at least one foreign language, and French remains the most commonly used language after English. Students and researchers who know French have access to these works for several years before they are translated into English. Many significant works are never translated and remain accessible only to those who know the language.

When employers and universities look at applicants, they do not start looking at the bottom of the list to see who has done only the minimal amount of requirements necessary or taken the easiest route available. They start at the top of the list and look for those students who have risen above the rest, especially in languages.

High school students should consider studying at least four years of a foreign language. College students should seek to earn a minor in French or have French as a primary or secondary major.

French gives access to the most widely spoken foreign language in the world after English and to cultures that significantly influence our own. Canada is the United States' best trading partner, the Canadian and French economies are among the strongest in the world and French trade with Africa is becoming increasingly important in the 21st century.

French is the language of our past and our future.



### Our Quebec Connection

French is one of the official languages of Canada, the number one trading partner of the US.

The Quebec — New York Trade Corridor has been the chief commercial and industrial region of North America for four centuries.

The number one trading partner of many states, including New York, is Quebec. In 2009, trade between Québec and New York State reached \$US 5.6 billion.

In 2010, New York State exported more products to Québec (\$U.S. 1.6 billion) than it did to India.

French-speaking Quebec is the largest province in Canada. Montreal is the second largest French speaking city in the world (after Paris) and is a one hour drive from our Plattsburgh.

For further information on our French courses contact:

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## Why Study French at Clinton Community College?



For further information on other foreign language courses offered at Clinton please contact:

The Humanities Department  
Clinton Community College  
136 Clinton Point Drive  
Plattsburgh, NY 120901  
Tel. 518-562-4176

# Why Learn French?

You will develop skills that will make for an informed, flexible, independent and creative mind. Your knowledge of French language and culture could lead to a career in diplomatic and government service, trade and business, teaching, research, tourism, libraries or translation and interpreting.

## Cultural Understanding

Speaking a new language helps you to get to know another people and culture, as language and culture go hand in hand. Because language simultaneously defines and is defined by the world around us, learning another language opens one's mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world. In addition, when you speak another language, you can enjoy literature, film and music in the original language.

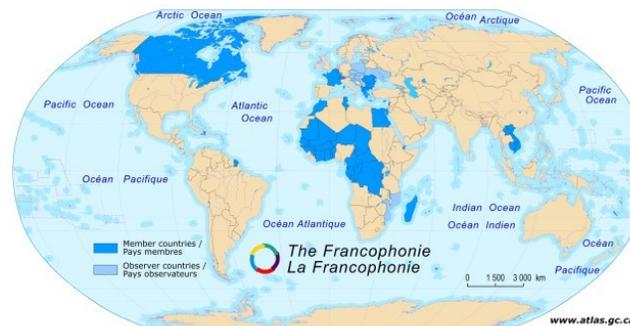
## French for Business

Speaking more than one language is a skill which will increase your marketability. Schools and employers tend to prefer candidates who speak one or more foreign languages. Even though English is widely spoken in much of the world, the fact is that the global economy depends on communication. Whether dealing with France, Quebec, Belgium or Senegal, someone who speaks French will have an obvious advantage over someone who doesn't.



While any language will be useful for some jobs or for some regions, French is the only language that can be useful throughout the world as well as in the United States. French as a foreign language is the second most frequently taught language in the world after English.

The International Organization of the Francophonie has fifty six member states and governments. Of these, twenty eight have French as an official language. French is the only language other than English spoken on five continents. French and English are the only two global languages. When deciding on a foreign language for work or school, consider that French is the language that will give you the most choices later on in your studies or your career.



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## French Is the Language of the Future in Africa

Many African nations which are former French colonies continue to use French as an official language, and to maintain close economic and political ties with Paris.

Africa, where US businesses have more than doubled their direct investments since 1990, and where economists predict a 20% late '90s economic growth, is the future of the Francophone world. French-speaking Africa represents an area larger than the United States. There are 19 African countries where French is the official language and there others where Arabic alone is the official language, but where French has a powerful presence.

The total population in these countries is over 254,000,000 people. French is directly and indirectly the communication key to a quarter of a billion people in an enormous expanse of this great continent.

In Asia, Africa, and in other parts of North and South America, tomorrow's leaders are learning at least one and usually two foreign languages well. The best jobs in 2020 will go to people worldwide who are able to function across cultures and who are able to use other languages.

Educate yourself for tomorrow! Prepare yourself for the global economy!

Study French now!