

# **St. Francis Xavier University Bachelor of Education**

## **French Education**

*This information is intended to guide undergraduate students as they prepare themselves to apply for a place in the **French Education Specialization** in the Bachelor of Education Program.*

### **Your application:**

**Indicate on your application form that you are applying for a French specialization or to take French Education courses.**

**Always include at least one French professor from your undergraduate program as a reference. The admission committee wants to know about your abilities in oral and written French.**

**When you write your review of personal experiences, make sure to highlight any work, volunteering, etc. that you have done in French.**

**When you write your essay on why you want to be a teacher, specify why teaching French would interest you in particular.**

**Please note: As part of the admission procedure to the French Education Specialization or to a second teachable in French, you will be interviewed in French and be required to write a French essay on location.**

### **Expectations of a French Teacher**

\*As a French Second Language teacher, you will:

- work entirely in French with your students
- provide an accurate model of oral and written French language
- speak confidently and correctly
- prepare a great deal of materials in French for the classroom
- write correctly on the board
- correct your students' written and oral language
- be well versed in Acadian, Quebec, and francophone cultures of Canada and the world in order to create a culturally rich environment for your students

\*If you wish to become a core French teacher, elementary or secondary specialist, you will be expected to:

- **(elementary specialist)** teach core French from grades 4-6 in one or several schools
- **(secondary specialist)** teach core French in middle school, junior high or senior high at several levels, or teach core French in combination with other subjects in English or in French immersion

\*If you wish to become a French immersion teacher, you will be expected to be able do all of the above in addition to the following:

- **(elementary specialist)** teach most if not all of the subject areas at the elementary level
- **(secondary specialist)** teach at least 2 subject areas at the secondary level / and a combination of other subjects in English or some Core French

**\*Please note that many school boards in Nova Scotia place French teachers in both Core French classes and French Immersion classes in the same job position. That means that a French Second Language Education candidate should try to be prepared to teach in both programs. It is sometimes possible to find positions that are in just one program, ie. either Core French or French Immersion, however, many school boards like to hire candidates that can respond to needs in both programs when necessary.**

### **What this means:**

As you begin your major and minor studies at University, you should consider the following:

#### **French courses/programs**

- **You will need a minimum of 30 credits in French for a first teachable in French and a specialization in French Education**
- **You will need a minimum of 18 credits in French for a second teachable area in French; however, you are not eligible for a French specialization.**

In order to gain the confidence you will need to speak and write correctly and confidently, you should include the following courses in your program of study:

- at least one summer French Immersion program or other language study program in a French environment (study in Quebec, study in France etc.)
- French courses that feature oral communication and oral communication strategies
- French courses that feature written communication and writing strategies
- courses in French grammar and/or linguistics
- French culture courses that deal with a survey of life, language, customs, history, and literature, etc.: Acadian, Quebec, Francophone regions of Canada and the world

- Literature courses that feature French reading while also dealing with reading comprehension strategies, reading activities, comprehension activities, group discussion activities, presentation activities, group drama activities
- a course in French children's literature (especially for **elementary education** applicants)

**This means that your program should be organized to include some or all of the above categories and should not be focused on one single area.**

#### **A. Applying for the secondary level:**

- You will need 18 credits in a second teachable area (see the Education Program flyers for detailed information on the areas accepted as second teachable subjects.)
- Math and/or Science are highly recommended as second teachable areas for French first teachable students (for those who are strong in those disciplines). There is a shortage of Math and Science French Immersion teachers across Canada.
- Social studies: if your second teachable area is Social Studies take courses in some of the following: Canadian History, Atlantic Canada Studies, Global Geography, and Ancient History as these areas are part of the school curriculum and these courses will help you to develop content knowledge. Physical Education/Health ... Health and personal growth courses are often taught in French in French Immersion programs although the Physical Education class itself is most often taught in English.

**\*Please note that it is possible to do a minor in English, however, as a general rule, administrators place French teachers in only French classes. If you are minoring in English, you may possibly be hired to teach in French and in English, but it is more likely that you will teach entirely in French, for example, French, Social Studies and Health.**

#### **B. Applying for the Elementary Level:**

As an **elementary specialist** French teacher, you will either be a Core French Elementary Specialist who teaches Core French in grades 4-6 in Nova Scotia (the elementary Core French programs vary across the country and in some areas begin earlier) or an Early Immersion French teacher who delivers the entire elementary program in French.

**\*\*\*In addition to these two typical positions, some areas/school districts expect the regular elementary classroom teacher to teach Core French to his/her student. A **non specialist** is often hired because he/she is strong in French yet has not completed the 30 credits of French at the undergraduate level. Please indicate on your application form, how much French you have taken at university as well as your personal experiences that have influenced your linguistic skills (eg. Immersion program, French background, etc.)**

For these reasons, all Elementary Education applicants are required to complete course work in a number of curriculum areas. Please see the School of Education Information Flyer regarding elementary entry requirements.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

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