



# Alliance Française de Philadelphie

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## **A few words about the Alliance Française for prospective Corporate Members**

- For over one hundred years, the Alliance Française has worked to promote French culture and the French language by becoming Philadelphia's premier center for French and American cultural exchange. We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization relying on private support - not government subsidy - to offer our individual and corporate members cultural, educational and professional programs.
- Our yearly cultural events include "ciné-club" - a repertoire of French films, dance, theater, cabaret and musical performances by French artists, lectures and readings in French and in English, a group for young Francophiles, wine lectures and tastings, culinary events held in local restaurants, Mardi gras and Bastille Day celebrations.
- Our bi-monthly "French Table" luncheons in local restaurants attract some 500 American and French professionals per year who gather informally to enjoy French cuisine and to speak French.
- Our school, the largest of its kind in Philadelphia, enrolls over 1,600 students per year in French language, civilization, business and literature courses at all levels. Our Saturday morning classes for children draw children from the Delaware Valley eager to develop bilingual skills at an early age.

Corporate membership offers companies and their employees the opportunity to join the Alliance Française as students, members and friends.

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## **I. The Alliance Française**

Founded in Paris in 1883, the Alliance Française is a worldwide organization dedicated to encouraging and developing the study of the French language and culture from its branches in 134 countries.

The Alliance Française de Philadelphie, established in 1903, continues the mission of the Alliance Française by functioning as a not-for-profit French school and cultural center. The Alliance Française school offers its students a unique selection of French language, civilization and business courses. As a cultural organization, the Alliance Française sponsors and organizes activities and events to educate members and friends about French art, literature, cuisine, history, and current events. In addition, the Alliance Française serves to foster positive French-American relations.

## **II. The Alliance Française School**

The mission of the Alliance Française School is: to develop students' oral proficiency and to strengthen students' linguistic resourcefulness and confidence while emphasizing social communication and awareness of French culture. The Alliance Française regularly upgrades its teaching methods and materials. Alliance Française instructors benefit from in-service training.

### **1. The Curriculum**

The Alliance Française offers three general levels of French instruction.

#### French 100, French 200 (A1 of the CECR for levels 100 and A2 of the CECR for Levels 200)

The first two levels are numbered 100 and 200. French 101-106 is Basic/Beginning French and requires 120 class hours. French 201-206 is Intermediate French and requires an additional 120 class hours.

At these two levels, students acquire and strengthen oral skills through modern methodology, interaction and fluency activities. In addition, primary source documents and writing exercises provide students with direct cultural and linguistic experiences.

Students learn French not as an end in itself, but as a means of communication. The main goal of the 100 and 200 levels is the development of proficiency in the areas of comprehension and expression in order to make, to maintain and to strengthen contacts.

#### French 300, French 400 (Levels B1 and B2 of the CECR)

The third and fourth levels of French instruction are numbered 300 and 400. French 301-306 is advanced French and requires 120 class hours. French 400, 401 and French for Business are specialized advanced classes that require 100 hours each or more.

At the 300 level, students broaden their knowledge of French through intensive lessons in spoken and written French. The methods are the same as those in levels 100 and 200. The goal of level 300 is to sharpen students' oral and written, listening and reading comprehension skills to prepare them for fluency in French.

At the 400+ level, students fluent in French choose from three types of courses. French 400 is a course in French civilization which presents students with French texts, articles and videos that expands students' knowledge of French history as well as contemporary French life and current events. French 401 is a course in

French literature that introduces students to literary ideas and styles through classic works by French authors. Business French develops students' linguistic knowledge of commercial French and familiarizes them with French business procedures. The goal of Level 400 courses is to challenge advanced students with stimulating materials in order to maintain their fluency and to develop their knowledge of modern and historic French culture.

## **II. The Alliance Française School (continued)**

### **2. Faculty and Supervision**

The Alliance Française's faculty's dedication to continuity of service maintains the high quality of instruction at the school. Each instructor possesses native fluency and extensive experience teaching French as a foreign language. Most Alliance Française instructors hold Master's or higher degrees in French and/or Foreign Language Education; many hold professorships or teaching positions at area universities, colleges and private schools. In-service training at the Alliance Française and at the instructors' respective learning institutions as well as participation in academic associations such as the American Association of Teachers of French and the Modern Language Association keep our faculty up to date with linguistic methodology and research. The average tenure of faculty at the Alliance Française is ten years.

Executive Director Martine Chauvet supervises the Alliance Française faculty. She is responsible for maintaining and improving the quality of the curriculum and its implementation.

### **3. Methodology**

The Alliance Française methodology conforms to the standards of excellence set forth by the Federation des Alliances Françaises. In accordance with the latest research and philosophies on foreign language acquisition, the Alliance Française de Philadelphie develops and updates its pedagogical methods.

French instruction at the Alliance Française begins with the natural concentration on students' oral proficiency. Using grammatical instruction as a guide, Alliance Française instructors facilitate students' development of speaking and listening skills as they foster students' early attempts at creative language use. Proficiency in reading and writing French is the subsequent goal of instruction.

### **III. On-Site Programs**

#### **1. Progress Reports**

The purpose of a progress report is twofold. These reports: 1) provide students with critical feedback on their development of proficiency in French and 2) allow instructors to monitor student's performances.

Progress reports are issued every ten weeks or according to the specific needs of the company. A sample progress report is available upon request.

#### **2. Proficiency Tests**

A proficiency test is a mandatory individual placement examination and interview for non-beginning new students who plan to take an Alliance Française course. This test assesses the student's knowledge of spoken and written French according to the standards set by the curriculum followed and the materials used at the Alliance Française. The test will place the students at an appropriate level (French 101-401). A brief and informal interview will accompany the test to determine the specific professional needs and linguistic/educational goals of the prospective student.

#### **3. Course and Materials Costs**

The standard curriculum of the Alliance Française on-site program assumes a session of contact (class) hours over a ten-week period. The following quotes are based on a ten-week session.

Group Instruction (5-10 students): \$350.00 per student 10 weeks; once a week for 1½ hours

Group Instruction (3-4 students): \$400.00 per student 10 weeks; once a week for 1½ hours

Private and Semi-Private Instruction (1-2 students): \$80.00 per contact hour.

Materials are purchased through the Alliance Française and include a textbook, workbook and practice CDs. Total cost for materials per student is \$80.00.

#### **4. Tuition Statements**

The Alliance Française offers two options for payment for on-site French instruction.

Method 1: The Alliance Française bills the company prior to each ten-week session of French instruction.

Method 2: The company prepays an agreed number of contact hours which the Alliance Française deducts from an account at the start of each ten-week session. Prior to each session, the Alliance Française will send a statement indicating hours designated for use within the upcoming ten weeks and hours remaining for following sessions.

