ITALIAN, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
The major offers training in the skills required for fluency in Italian and knowledge in Italian culture, civilization, and literature. Its aim is to open to the student both the traditions of one of the major formative components of the Western world and the continuing vitality of modern Italian and Italian-American life.

As one of the humanistic programs of the College of the Liberal Arts, the Italian major prepares students for rewarding and unique careers in business, media, travel, ministry, banking, and education. In addition, the federal government employs liberal arts graduates with foreign-language skills in organizations including the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Department of Labor. The Italian major is also preparatory for graduate work directed to the Ph.D. degree required for teaching and research in colleges and universities. Students with degrees in the humanities are particularly successful applicants to professional schools, such as law and medicine.

What is Italian?
Italian is the voice of one of the formative cultural traditions of the Western world. The study of Italy and its language offers a rigorous, interdisciplinary exploration of the continuing vitality of modern Italian and Italian American culture though literature, cinema, translation studies, the arts, Roman thought, fashion, tourism, Mediterranean cuisine, and much more. Italian, in its humanistic breadth and depth, offers students access to a wide variety of professional pathways through an emphasis on global communicative understanding and cultural sensitivity. Italian is increasingly important in business; six of the 100 biggest companies are headquartered in Italy, and Italy is the world’s fifth largest industrial producer of goods. Learning a foreign language also improves oral and written skills in English interactions. Penn State’s Italian program is small, and prides itself on its capacity to provide individual attention and mentoring to each of its majors and minors.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You enjoy learning languages and communicating with people from a particularly rich cultural civilization.
- You dream of studying abroad. More Penn State students currently study in Italy than in any other nation of the world, and you will enjoy more memorable experiences with a deeper preparation through advanced coursework in Italian.
- You wish to learn more about the roots of your family heritage and traditions.

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:
1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm).

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian, a minimum of 122 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits
University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar. Colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Requirements for the Major
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT 301</td>
<td>Pathways to Fluency</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT 320</td>
<td>Introduction to Italian Culture; Food, Fashion, Family</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT 310</td>
<td>Applied Advanced Conversation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT 325</td>
<td>Introduction to Italy's Genius</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 330</td>
<td>Greatest Books of Italian Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 399</td>
<td>Foreign Study–Italian</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 412</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Translation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 422</td>
<td>Topics in the Italian Renaissance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 430</td>
<td>Italian Children's Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 450</td>
<td>Nineteenth-Century Italian Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 460</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century Italian Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 470</td>
<td>Ghosts and Otherworldly Visions in Italy c. 1300-1600</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 475</td>
<td>Modern Italian Literature and Cinema</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT/WMNST 480</td>
<td>Italian Women Writers Through the Centuries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 485</td>
<td>Italian-American Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 415</td>
<td>Dante</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 490</td>
<td>Dante in Translation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 3 credits from the following:

- IT 130 Italian Culture and Civilization
- IT 131 Introduction to Italian American Culture
- IT/CMLIT/HIST/WMNST 240Q Artistic Patronage in Europe
- IT/CRIM 225N Organized Crime in Film and Society
Select 6 credits in a Penn State or Penn State approved education abroad program in Italy or the equivalent experience approved by an Italian major adviser or 6 credits in related disciplines at the 400-level including Art History, History, Comparative Literature, Political Science, Philosophy or others in consultation with an Italian major adviser.

Program Learning Objectives

The linguistic objectives for students who have completed an undergraduate major in Italian are as follows:

- Students will have developed oral skills in Italian that allow them to communicate effectively and accurately in a range of settings.
- Students will have developed written skills in Italian that allow them to communicate effectively and accurately in a range of settings.
- Students will have developed literacy skills that allow them to read and understand texts in a variety of media ranging from newspapers to literary texts and formal academic prose.
- Students will have developed a cultural awareness that allows them to interact well with Italians in informal and formal situations and to use knowledge of target culture to interpret texts read, heard or viewed in Italian or English.
- Students will, ideally, have spent at least six weeks in Italy immersed in the target language and its culture.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors (http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/)

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2020-21 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).
All incoming first-year students must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

**Career Paths**

Because the study of Italian comprises advanced-level language proficiency and the development of cultural understanding, critical thinking, and communicative capacities, successful Penn State students have gone on to pursue many professions. In the Italian program, majors and minors have access to:

- Individualized advising aimed at integrating complementary majors/ minors, study abroad, and internship opportunities.
- Italian-specific fellowships, prizes, and capstone project opportunities to ready them for future goals.
- Mentorship that connects Italian students with alumni who have applied successfully to graduate schools, participated in Fulbright/ Peace Corps/Teach for America/etc., or are making contributions in the career path of particular interest.

**Careers**

As a humanistic program in the liberal arts, Italian is not designed to be directly vocational. Italian prepares students to access a wide array of rewarding and unique careers, including those related to international business, travel, journalism, ministry, diplomacy, banking, science fields, the arts, and education. The federal government employs graduates with advanced foreign-language skills in organizations including the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Department of Labor. Students with degrees in the humanities are also particularly successful applicants to graduate and professional schools, such as law, business, and medicine.

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Any of the three baccalaureate degree options in Italian (the Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature, the Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies, or the Bachelor of Science in Applied Italian) can serve as the foundation for graduate studies in Italian, as well as other humanistic, social science, and STEM disciplines. Italian can also lead to advanced professional degrees in business, educational administration, law, and medicine.

**Contact**

**University Park**

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