Italian Studies Major and Italian Minor

A major in Italian Studies promotes the cross-discipline exploration of a variety of areas relating to Italian and Italian American culture: language, literature, theatre, cinema, art and architecture, music, history, social and immigration history, politics and political theory. The University is committed to international study, and students are encouraged to take advantage of the numerous study abroad opportunities available to them. Students can combine a major in Italian Studies with a second major in a field such as political science, history, anthropology, history of art and architecture, music, English, business, linguistics or another foreign language. For more information on available majors and minors, and on the Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, please visit our website.

Required courses for the Italian Studies major

After one year of college instruction in the Italian language (ITAL 0001 and ITAL 0002, or the equivalent as determined by the results of a placement test administered within the Department of French and Italian), Italian majors may enroll in ITAL 0003 for credit toward the major.

The Italian studies major requires the completion of 33 credits beyond elementary Italian language, distributed as follows.

Core courses
ITAL 0003 Intermediate Italian 1
ITAL 0004 Intermediate Italian 2
ITAL 0055 Italian Conversation and Culture
ITAL 0060 Literary Italian 1 or ITAL 0061 Literary Italian 2

One of the following
ITAL 0080 Italian Cultural Heritage 1
ITAL 0081 Italian Cultural Heritage 2

Note: Because ITAL 0080 and ITAL 0081 have no prerequisites and are taught in English, it is recommended that students interested in majoring in Italian take those courses as early in their studies as possible.

One writing-intensive (W) course taught in Italian

Six electives, which can be taught either in Italian or English

At least three of these electives must be 1000-level courses, and at least two of them must be courses offered by the Italian program. The remaining courses can be selected from an approved list of other departments’ offerings. Italian Studies majors are encouraged to continue their study of the Italian language to the greatest extent possible.

Grade requirements: A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: Courses taken on an S/NC basis may not be applied toward the Italian major or minor. Students deciding to pursue an Italian major or minor after selecting this option for a departmental course should consult with the departmental advisor.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete one writing-intensive (W) course taught in Italian. ITAL 0061 and ITAL 1041 are always offered as W courses.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor or in a cluster of courses approved by your advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirements: Students majoring in Italian Studies may earn the Honors designation by fulfilling the following criteria.
1. Have an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in courses required for the major;
2. Submit a portfolio consisting of their best output (from both core culture courses and upper-level courses) and a 10-page formal summary and evaluation of the outcomes of their interdisciplinary Italian studies. Work on this project would take place over two terms; and
3. Select one of the following options:
   a. Participation in the advanced track of the Pitt-in-Florence program or in the six-week advanced Italian summer Panther Program abroad
   b. Completion of ITAL 1905 Internship in Italian or ITAL 1909 Undergraduate Research in Italian, for at least 2 credits

Language study: Reading competency in at least one other foreign language is recommended for those students planning to do graduate study in Italian.
Study abroad: Students are strongly encouraged to add an international dimension to their undergraduate education by studying abroad. By participating in a study abroad program, students can earn credits toward the major as well as general education requirements. Please contact Francesca Savoia in the Italian program for guidance in choosing the most appropriate program. Students should choose a study abroad program, keeping in mind their specific program of study and other factors such as location, cost, level of immersion, and internship opportunities.

For a list of study abroad programs approved by the University of Pittsburgh, visit the Study Abroad Office Web site at www.abroad.pitt.edu/programs/europe.html#italy.

Checklist for the Italian Studies major

Core courses

______ ITAL 0001 (does not count toward major)
______ ITAL 0002 (does not count toward major)
______ ITAL 0003
______ ITAL 0004
______ ITAL 0055
______ ITAL 0060 or ITAL 0061

One of the following

______ ITAL 0080
______ ITAL 0081

One writing-intensive course taught in Italian

______ ITAL ______

Elective courses

Three 1000-level courses

______ ITAL 1______ (1000-level in the Italian program)
______ ITAL 1______ (1000-level in the Italian program)
______ ______ 1______ (1000-level from the approved list)

Three other courses from Italian offerings or the approved list

______ ______
______ ______
______ ______

Checklist for the Italian minor

Any combination of five courses from the following list

ITAL 0001     ITAL 0080
ITAL 0002     ITAL 0081
ITAL 0003     ITAL 0087
ITAL 0004     ITAL 0088
ITAL 0060 (W course) ITAL 1030 - ITAL 1069
ITAL 0061 (W course) ITAL 1070 - ITAL 1092

______ ITAL ______
______ ITAL ______
______ ITAL ______
______ ITAL ______
______ ITAL ______

ITAL 0055 counts toward the minor only when taken as part of a Study Abroad program in Italy.

Students minoring in Italian are encouraged to study the target language to the greatest extent allowed by their plan.

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.