

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall term, 2023.

Background

Local and Global Impact. This program makes an essential contribution to the fulfillment of the University's mission, providing the skills and tools needed for making a local and global impact. The study of other languages, literatures, and cultures not only provides important perspectives on the world, but also sharpens analytical and reasoning skills, deepens understanding of English, and enhances the quality of one's writing. Linguistic and broadly-based cultural studies provide excellent grounding for various professional programs, including law, business, medicine or health sciences, teaching at the high school or university level, library and information science, and museum practice. In the 21-22 academic year, the existing CMLLC B.A. programs had 4,842 undergraduate course enrollments, 180 majors, and 440 minors. With the implementation of the consolidated B.A., we expect similar numbers.

Rationale for Consolidation. This proposal aims to consolidate all existing CMLLC B.A. programs into one multi-concentration B.A. degree except the Global Studies B.A., which will remain a separate degree program. By doing so, it endeavors a) to restructure CMLLC's programs into a tripartite model (language studies, area studies, and Global Studies); b) to reduce students' time to degree by reducing curricular bottlenecks through flexible program architectures; c) to align program goals and streamline assessment by adopting common architectures and learning objectives; d) to provide a flexible framework for comparative and interdisciplinary collaborations and improve responsiveness to changes in student needs and our faculty profile; and e) to provide a seamless transition from CLAS foreign language requirement to the new major.

a) Tripartite Undergraduate Program Portfolio Model. This proposal seeks to reorganize CMLLC's program portfolio into three categories of undergraduate programs of study: language studies, area studies, and Global Studies. The language studies concentration type in the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures B.A. will focus on delivering high-quality language instruction with the goal of students achieving a high level of competency in the target language(s) and cultural competency in the cultures in which the target language(s) is spoken. The area studies concentration type in the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures B.A. aims at mid-level language proficiency in one language or novice-level proficiency in two languages. They focus on either a regional cultural field or a comparative study of two languages. The existing Global Studies B.A. focuses on global cultures, issues, and institutions and aims at mid-level language proficiency in one language or novice-level proficiency in two languages.

b) Efficient Degree Progression for Students. This proposal seeks to eliminate curricular bottlenecks that delay degree completion by implementing streamlined and flexible program architectures that give students multiple options within curriculum modules.

c) Align Program Goals and Streamline Assessment. This proposal seeks to streamline program assessment by adopting a common architecture across all concentrations and aligning their outcomes with national proficiency standards. Specifically, the language studies type concentrations will adopt "Intermediate High to Advanced Low" language proficiency outcomes as defined by ACTFL. Area studies type concentrations will adopt "Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid" language proficiency outcomes in one language or "Novice High" outcomes in two languages as defined by ACTFL and the Standards for Classical Language

Learning. Additionally, the proposal aligns cultural competency and research competency outcomes in three categories: 1) in discussion and research in the target language (language-studies-type concentrations); 2) in linguistic, cultural, and literary analysis from multiple methodological perspectives (all concentrations); and 3) in critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources (all concentrations).

d) Flexible Framework. This proposal seeks to create a flexible framework for comparative and interdisciplinary collaborations across concentrations and to improve the department's ability to respond effectively to changes in student needs and our faculty profile in the following three ways: 1) by adjusting concentrations to meet the current faculty profile, 2) by creating a variety of curricular collaborations between program faculties, and 3) by creating a template for future curricular collaborations.

e) Third Semester of the Basic Language Sequence. By counting 2010-level courses toward the degree in all concentrations, this proposal 1) will provide for a seamless transition from the CLAS foreign language general education requirement to the new major and 2) will establish a strong linguistic and Global Learning foundation for all concentrations in the new major. This measure is intended to retain more students from the basic language sequence and potentially recruit them for the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures B.A.

Program Description

This program will continue to further the University's mission to prepare a diverse student body to thrive and positively impact local and global communities. Our students are prepared for engaged global citizenship, to live and work in our diverse local communities and in an increasingly interconnected world. This program will help our students develop a broad knowledge base and skills in foreign languages, linguistics, historical and comparative literary studies, and intercultural competencies; and to deepen their understanding of cultures, histories, and literatures from across the globe as well as from their own communities.

Our program is the only program on campus that: a) trains students in foreign language competency; b) delivers high-level, expert instruction in the fields of linguistics and literary/cultural studies in the target languages; and c) affords students a broad and deep knowledge of the specific languages, cultures, histories, institutions, and literatures covered by our programs.

Admission Requirements

Admission to this program is contingent upon admission to Wayne State University for undergraduate studies. The admissions standards are aligned with the University's, which is comparable to similar programs at other universities. Regular admission to the program requires a 2.75 GPA.

Curriculum Requirements

Overview. The proposed B.A. program consists of nine concentrations in world languages ranging from 32 to 37 credits.

Common Curricular Components. In each concentration, students will complete Language Requirement, which will begin at the first semester of intermediate language study, and a Literature, Culture, and History Requirement, which will consist of lower and upper division courses taught either in the target language (in language studies concentrations) or in English (in area studies concentrations). Students will be required to

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complete a minimum of six credits at the 5000-level or higher. Additionally, students will complete a research project connected to a course at the 5000-level or higher.

Concentrations. Below is a list of concentrations organized according to concentration type and indicating total number of required credit hours for each.

<u>Language Studies Concentrations:</u>	
Chinese	35 credits
French and Francophone Studies	37 credits
German	35 credits
Italian	34 credits
Japanese	35 credits
Spanish	34 credits
<u>Area Studies Concentrations:</u>	
Asian Studies	36 credits
Classics, Greek, and Latin	32 credits
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures	34 credits

Graduation Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements as defined by the University and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. On the program level, they must complete the curriculum requirements in one of the concentrations described above.

Program Administration

Administration. The World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures B.A. as a whole is overseen by the departmental chair along with the departmental curriculum committee. Each individual concentration is overseen by a program committee which specializes in the language/discipline of the concentration.

Teaching Rotations. Since as the proposed B.A. program consolidates already existing/functioning programs (except Global Studies), CMLLC faculty will continue current scheduling and teaching rotations. No new implementation measures are necessary.

Curriculum Development. Curriculum development is under the purview of each program committee and is overseen by the departmental curriculum committee.

Advising, Recruitment, and Retention. Recruitment is coordinated between the departmental advisor and the members of the individual program committees. Student advising is handled by an in-house academic advisor, who is responsible for advising current CMLLC students. The academic advisor helps students know their requirements and understand their curricular options, and monitors students' progress toward degree completion. In addition, departmental committees and individual faculty members engage in mentoring and retention efforts. Since as the proposed B.A. program consolidates already existing/functioning programs (except Global Studies), current recruitment plans will remain in place.

Budget and Resource Requirements

Faculty Resources. This program will utilize all CMLLC faculty in their current roles. Teaching loads will remain unchanged. CMLLC currently employs 29 full-time faculty members: 5 full professors, 13 associate professors, 9 associate professors of teaching, 1 assistant professor, and 1 assistant professors of teaching. 27 of 29 full-time faculty hold a Doctorate. 2 of 29 are holders of a Master's degree only.

Other Resources, Costs, and Sources of Revenue. Since this is a consolidation of existing programs, no new resources will be required. Current sources of revenue to support the program will remain unchanged; namely, current funding for CMLLC from CLAS and program enrollments. No new facilities will be required. No new acquisitions will be required.

Accreditation

All CMLLC B.A. are already accredited through Higher Learning Commission. No special accreditation is required.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Department of Classic and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Provost.