

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL ITALIAN

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new Undergraduate Certificate program in Practical Italian in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall term, 2024.

Background

Language skills certification is widespread and can cover different levels of proficiency. Similar Italian language certificate programs are available at the University of Toronto, Western University – Ontario, University of Wisconsin – Madison, and Temple University.

Certifying one's language skills can enhance a student's profile for graduate school and professions. In Michigan, because of the extensive cooperations and economic interconnections between Michigan and Italy, where many tasks need to be carried out in Italian and English, being able to gain working skills that can be certified offers an advantage on the job market. We have had students who cannot fit in a minor take more courses in Italian to strengthen their language skills, and the proposed program will certify their abilities to enhance their professional and academic prospects.

Graduate programs and employers increasingly seek candidates with language and cultural skills. These skills are particularly important in Michigan, and in our Detroit area, where there is a vibrant Italian business community with major automotive, OEM, service, and technological companies that use Italian, since their headquarters are located in Italy.

Program Description

The Undergraduate Certificate in Practical Italian provides students with the ability to read, write, listen, and speak in the past, present, and future; carry out basic tasks necessary to everyday life in Italy or in an Italian context; describe people and things; understand and express opinions; and understand the main points of various media. Students also gain knowledge about cultural differences and practices that allow them to better understand and function in Italy and its culture.

Admission Requirements

The program shall be open to regularly admitted Wayne State University undergraduate students who are in good academic standing. The program shall also be open to students who have previously earned a baccalaureate level degree at Wayne State or another institution. Admission standards will be based on the BOG code 2.34.09 Admissions; General Undergraduate.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
ITA 1010	Beginning Italian I	4
ITA 1020	Beginning Italian II	4
ITA 2010	Intermediate Italian	4
Total Credits		12

Submitted by: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation Requirements

Students must accumulate a 2.5 overall GPA and pass each of the courses to earn the certificate.

Program Administration

The program will be administered in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (CMLLC) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Functional management of the program will be provided by the Italian program faculty, with routine administrative oversight provided by the CMLLC Policy Committee. The CMLLC academic advisor, in collaboration with program faculty, will provide student advising.

Budget and Resource Requirements

No additional budgetary resources are required for the certificate program. Courses will be taught by faculty in the CMLLC department.

Accreditation

N/A

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (CMLLC), the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost.