

Foreign Languages and Literature B.A.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

Due to the growing globalization of culture, commerce and politics, our students will have to become increasingly literate in international and interdisciplinary discourses. The declared goal of Old Dominion University to be the premier international university of the Commonwealth of Virginia is a clear recognition of this momentous development. More than ever our students will have to become familiar with foreign languages and cultures in order to compete successfully on a national and international level. These educational challenges are the quintessence of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. In addition, the three newly established minors make the study of other disciplines an integral part of their degree requirements. These minors can ideally complement majors in disciplines such as Engineering, International Business etc. giving graduates a definite advantage in future job markets. Employers are looking increasingly for professionals with a combination of special training and a well-rounded education in a foreign language and culture. ("Future markets will demand 20% natural scientists and 80% humanists", wrote Fachdienst Germanistik, 12, 1998. In a similar vein, Nations Bank, the largest bank in the United States, encourages students to study abroad and offer benefits for employees that have study abroad experience). In sum, given the increasingly multicultural and interdisciplinary orientation of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, it can be considered a natural matrix and crucible for the university's mission to teach across the borders and internationalize its programs and curricula.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

To graduate students who are linguistically proficient and literate in a foreign culture is the principle goal of our program. The Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages and Literatures requires a minimum of 30 hours in French, German, or Spanish at the 300-400 level, completion of the University's General Education requirements, and six hours of Foreign Language and Literatures core courses with the following two options: Option A: a second foreign language at any level (recommended for students seeking licensure in Secondary Education), Option B: area studies relevant to the language concentration which consists of a list of departmentally approved courses. The B.A. in FL can be taken as
(a) Foreign Languages and Literatures Concentration, (b) Foreign Languages and Literatures with Licensure in Secondary Education.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will take the Wisconsin Test.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: This test is administered in the Language Learning Center to students majoring in German, French, and Spanish. Students must take this test before they graduate from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. The intent of this testing program is to measure a student's level of achievement upon graduating from the department. Each student is tested on Grammar, Reading and Listening. Scores from this test are kept on file with the Director of the Language Learning Center.

Standards of performance for the Wisconsin Test are set as follows:

(a)Grammar/Reading Raw Score (b)Listening Raw Score (c)Standard

German = 55 German = 35 German = 850

French = 64 French = 44 French = 850

Spanish = 77 Spanish = 36 Spanish = 850

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: The Wisconsin Test was administered to 16 students in Spanish between October 6, 2000 and April 17, 2001. Scores for the Spanish Grammar and Reading section ranged from 48 to 75 (the highest possible score is 77). For the Listening section, scores ranged from 19 to 36 (the highest possible score is 36).

The Wisconsin Test was administered to 3 students in French on September 12, 2000, January 23, 2001 and on March 20, 2001. The results of the Grammar and Reading sections were 53, 60, and 61 (the highest possible score is 64). For the listening section, the scores were 34, 43 and 44 (the highest possible score is 44).

The Wisconsin test was not administered to any students in German since there were no students graduating with a declared major in German during the academic year 2000-2001.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will be given the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) by trained examiners and scored according to the internationally recognized norms for the exam.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: This interview is given prior to graduation for students majoring in German, French and Spanish. The interviewer must have received training on oral proficiency interviewing and rating based on techniques endorsed by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) and modified by ACTFL and Educational Testing Service for academic application. In the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Steve Foster is certified in French and Nancy Miguez is certified "in house only" in Spanish. The ACTFL/ETS Oral Proficiency Interview is a face-to-face conversation lasting anywhere between ten and twenty-five minutes, depending on the level of the person being tested. The oral interview must be taped for future verification.

Student verification is based on the following ratings: (1)Novice-Low, (2)Novice-Mid, (3)Novice-High, (4)Intermediate-Low, (5)Intermediate-Mid, (6)Intermediate-High, (7)Advanced, (8)Advanced-Plus and (9)Superior.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) was administered to 5 students in Spanish. The results of the OPI were: Intermediate-Mid, Intermediate-High, Advanced-Low, Advanced-high (native speaker), and Advanced-High (heritage speaker).

The OPI was not administered to any students in French since Dr. Stephen Foster was on sabbatical for the academic year 2000-2001. He is the only faculty member in French with OPI Tester certification.

The OPI was not administered to any students in German since there were no students graduating with a declared major in German during the academic year 2000-2001.

It should be noted that Heidi Schlipphacke will enroll in the ACTFL OPI Tester Training Workshop in German scheduled for November 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2001 at George Washington University in Washington, DC. The cost of \$630.00 for the workshop will be covered by assessment funds from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. This four-day, intensive Oral Proficiency Tester Training Workshop is an introduction to the techniques of administering and rating the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview. It is the first step in the ACTFL OPI Tester Certification Process and is open to teaching professionals who are affiliated with academic institutions as defined by ACTFL.