

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY**  
**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MINOR, NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR**  
**OR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO AN EXISTING MINOR**

A minor may be chosen by students to support the major, to offer greater job opportunities to the student on graduation, or to provide recognition of study in a second academic area. Completion of an approved minor will meet the upper-division General Education requirement. A minimum of 12 credit hours, normally at the advanced level (300-400) in a specified field of study is required.

Interdisciplinary minors require 12 credit hours of 300/400-level courses selected from at least two different disciplines with a maximum of six credits from any one discipline. Three credit hours in the interdisciplinary minor may be in the major, if a major course is listed as an option for the interdisciplinary minor. As such, it will be credited toward both the major and the interdisciplinary minor.

Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for the complete policy on minors.

Minimum enrollment expectations for minors are five graduates in five years or the minor will be discontinued.

**Proposed Action (check one)**

☒ New Minor    ☐ New Interdisciplinary Minor    ☐ Significant Changes to an Existing Minor

1. Name of proposed minor or minor to be changed:

Working with Multilingual Populations

2. Description of proposed minor or change to an existing minor:

The minor in Working with Multilingual Populations provides students with the knowledge, practical experience, and intercultural competence needed to engage effectively with linguistically and culturally diverse communities across professional settings. Through coursework in language learning, linguistics, literacy, and language in society, students explore how language functions across social and professional contexts. Emphasis is placed on applied, career-relevant and community-based learning experiences that connect research and practice in education, speech, and related human-service fields.

3. Rationale for proposal:

(address what the proposed minor will accomplish for students)

The proposed minor responds to sustained student demand and the increasing need across professions for individuals who can communicate and collaborate effectively in multilingual environments. Students across multiple disciplines have expressed interest in language, culture, and multilingual communication as preparation for careers in education, healthcare, and community-focused fields.

This minor formalizes a sequence of existing, high-enrollment courses that already attract students from Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Education, and World

Cultural Studies, among others. By connecting these courses through a cohesive pathway, the minor:

- Provides formal recognition of study in multilingualism and language learning;
- Strengthens professional readiness for students entering global and multilingual workplaces;
- Supports ODU's mission of engagement, innovation, and community partnership
- Provides a formal academic structure for the English Language Center's partnerships with schools and organizations serving multilingual learners.

In addition, the elective structure allows students to extend their learning through sustained internship experiences at the English Language Center or multiple topics-based courses. This design offers flexibility for students seeking either additional hands-on engagement in the community or exposure to varied subjects within the study of language, culture, and multilingualism.

4. Majors likely to enroll in the minor (for new minors):

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology; World Cultural Studies; English; Education; Communications; Human Services; Psychology

5. Projected enrollment and why (for new minors):

An initial enrollment of approximately **10 new students per year** is expected, with steady growth as the minor becomes visible in advising pathways and general education offerings. This estimate is grounded in documented student interest and existing enrollments in the English Language Center's upper-division CGE courses.

Student demand for a structured minor connecting our courses has increased every semester. Many students who take CGE 450 (Social Justice and Literacy for Immigrant and Refugee Learners) subsequently enroll in additional CGE offerings, including the CGE 368 Internship. Exit questionnaires indicate that **approximately 75% of students** would pursue a *Minor in Working with Multilingual Populations* if it were available.

CGE 450 is now a **required course** in the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program, and other CGE courses are approved electives **in** World Cultural Studies, Communication, English, and Nuclear Medicine. This interdisciplinary reach supports sustainable enrollment and continued growth in subsequent years

6. Proposed Effective Term:

Fall 2026

7. Resources needed, including human resources, library resources, faculty resources, and funding resources:

No new resources are required. All courses are currently offered and taught by faculty within the English Language Center (ELC). Existing human, library, and classroom resources are sufficient to support the minor.

8. Program requirements: [List below all courses required for the minor, the prerequisites, and the total hours required for the minor. Submit the appropriate information through the online Course Inventory Management (CIM) process in CourseLeaf ([nextcatalog.odu.edu/courseadmin](http://nextcatalog.odu.edu/courseadmin)) for all new courses/course changes.]

The minor in Working with Multilingual Populations requires the completion of **15 credit hours**. For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 2.00 in all courses specified as a requirement for the minor.

**Required Courses (9 Credits)**

- CGE 440: Foundations of Language Learning (3 cr.)
- CGE 449: Linguistics for Working with Multilingual Populations (3 cr.)
- CGE 450: Social Justice & Literacy for Immigrant and Refugee Learners (3 cr.)

**Elective Courses (6 credits)**

Students fulfill this requirement by completing two enrollments (6 credits total) selected from the following courses:

- CGE 368: Internship (3 cr., *may be repeated once for credit*)
- CGE 496: Topics in Language, Culture, & Society (3 cr., *may be repeated once for credit with different topic*)

This component provides students with the flexibility to complete both an internship and a topics course, or to extend their learning through additional experiential **and** advanced study opportunities that develop applied communication and intercultural skills relevant to multilingual and multicultural environments.

Courses will be available on campus.

9. Description (showing new copy or revised copy) for the next Undergraduate Catalog.

The Minor in Working with Multilingual Populations offers students an exploration of language learning, culture, and communication in multilingual and multicultural contexts. Students examine the relationships among language, identity, and access while developing practical skills to engage effectively with diverse linguistic communities. The minor combines foundational theory with applied, career-oriented learning experiences through community partnerships and internships. *A minimum of 15 credit hours is required, including CGE 440, 449, and 450, and six additional credits chosen from CGE 368 or 496 and other approved electives.*

10. Schedule for offering courses (include whether the minor can be completed in two years and whether it will be available through Distance Learning) (for new minors):

All courses in the proposed minor are offered by the English Language Center at least once per academic year and can be completed within two years.

- **CGE 440:** Fall and Spring (new foundational course)
- **CGE 449:** Spring & Summer
- **CGE 450:** Fall, Spring, and Summer
- **CGE 368:** Fall, Spring, and Summer (Internship)
- **CGE 496:** Offered twice a year with rotating topics

Courses will be held in-person.

11. Effect on current department course schedule (for new minors):

None. The minor formalizes existing courses currently taught by English Language Center faculty and introduces one new course (CGE 440) that can be absorbed within the Center's existing instructional capacity. No additional staffing or scheduling impact is anticipated.

**APPROVED**

J. J. J.  
College Dean

11/6/2025

Date

Sam M. Kimm

Originator of Request

\_\_\_\_\_  
External Department Chair(s) Date  
(If applicable)

Laura E. Ray

Department Chair (*Director*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Faculty Senate Date  
Committee A

J. J. J.

Chair, College Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost Date

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### ADMINISTRATIVE CODING

Effective Term \_\_\_\_\_ Major Code \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Code \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_