

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Roy Dobson, chair

DATE OF MEETING: December 18, 2014

SUBJECT: **Certificate of Proficiency in Classic and Medieval Latin**

DECISION REQUESTED: *It is recommended:*

*That Council approve the Certificate of Proficiency in
Classical and Medieval Latin, effective May 1, 2015*

PURPOSE:

University Council approves new academic programs, including certificates of proficiency.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The Certificate of Proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin is intended to provide students who are not majoring in Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies the opportunity to develop a proficiency in Latin and to recognize this attainment by the awarding of a credential. Completion of the certificate will signify a level of proficiency in Latin sufficient for graduate-level research.

The program requires completion of 18 credit units in Latin, 12 credits at the junior level and 6 credit units at the senior level and falls within the approved certificate programs template of the College of Arts and Science, comprising a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 credit units. A minor in Latin does not exit. No new courses are required to offer the certificate, and the courses comprising the certificate are offered each year.

A requirement of the college for all certificate programs is that the certificate can be completed with no prior university-level instruction. Thus, the certificate will broaden accessibility. Although the enrolment projections are small, the certificate is intended to grow enrolment and complement the Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies unit.


REVIEW

The academic programs committee discussed the program proposal at its meeting on November 26 with David Parkinson, vice-dean, Humanities and Fine Arts, John Porter, associate professor, Department of History and Ms. Alexis Dahl, director, Programs Office, College of Arts and

Science in attendance. The committee considered the program to be distinctive in its approach to provide recognition in this area of student interest.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposal documents

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN	Proposal for Academic or Curricular Change
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1. PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: Certificate of Proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin

Field(s) of Specialization: Classical and Medieval Latin

Level(s) of Concentration: Certificate of Proficiency

Option(s):

Degree College: Arts & Science

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail):

Dr. John Porter
Associate Professor, Department of History
College of Arts & Science
Ph. 966-4781
john.porter@usask.ca

Dr. Brent Nelson
Associate Professor, Department of English
College of Arts & Science
Ph. 966-1820
brent.nelson@usask.ca

Proposed date of implementation: May 2015

Proposal Document

3. RATIONALE

This certificate will allow students who are not majoring in CMRS to develop a proficiency in Latin sufficient for graduate-level research, and will provide them with a means of documenting this competency. CMRS students may also want to pursue a Latin certificate as a means of documenting their special proficiency in Latin. We anticipate that this option will be particularly attractive to students in Linguistics, but also to those in disciplines such as English, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. The successful incorporation of ancient languages is one of the distinctive features of the Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Program that was highlighted for praise in an external review of our program by Robert Bjork, Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. This certificate offers the potential to extend this benefit to students in other programs.

The introduction of this program will assist students in the Humanities in a number of areas identified in the College's Integrated Plan:

- it encourages interdisciplinarity by allowing students in other disciplines to incorporate elements of Classical Studies within their programs, and to access the range of expertise represented by the CMRS faculty
- it fosters inquiry-based and experiential learning by giving students access to primary source materials, in Latin, from the ancient, medieval, renaissance, and early modern periods
- it promotes original research and sophisticated scholarly inquiry by allowing students direct access to primary source materials and providing them with the ability to engage actively in contemporary scholarly discussions of that material

Critical mass:

Currently about five students would be strong candidates for this certificate, and implementation and advertising of this option could increase that number to ten in the medium term. That said, because the courses that comprise this certificate are regularly offered already, there is no critical mass requirement to make this certificate viable.

Latin-related programs at other universities:

Programs in Classics (which includes instruction in Latin) are currently offered at the following Canadian institutions: Acadia University, University of Alberta, Bishops University, University of British Columbia, Brock University, University of Calgary, Carleton University, Concordia University, Dalhousie University, Grant MacEwan University, University of Guelph, Lakehead University, Langara College, Université Laval, University of Manitoba, McGill University, McMaster University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Université de Montréal, Mount Allison University, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Nipissing University, Université d'Ottawa – University of Ottawa, University of Prince Edward Island, Université du Québec à Montréal, Queen's University, University of Regina, St. Francis Xavier University, Saint Mary's University, Simon Fraser University, Thorneloe University, University of Toronto, University of Toronto at Mississauga, University of Toronto at Scarborough, Trent University, University of Victoria, University of Waterloo, University of Western Ontario, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Windsor, University of Winnipeg, York University. To our knowledge, all offer annual instruction in Latin; the vast majority also offer instruction in Greek.

Certificate program vs minor:

This program is proposed as a certificate rather than as a minor, as a minor suggests a broad background in a particular subject area, conveyed through an often loosely defined set of courses. A

certificate in Latin affirms that the student has completed a focused course of study designed to cultivate a certain skill-set — in this case, the ability to translate and interpret Classical and Medieval Latin texts employing the tools of philological analysis (attention not only to fundamental points of diction, syntax, textual variants, and, where appropriate, meter, but the practice of situating a text in a broader historical, cultural, and literary context).

The Certificate of Proficiency option also offers greater flexibility as compared to a minor. Students may complete a certificate prior to a degree, concurrently with a degree, or following a degree, whereas minors may only be completed concurrently with a degree. This opens the program both to existing university students as well as people in the community who have an interest in the subject and wish to obtain a credential. Certificates are also available to students in any College, in contrast to minors which are only available to students in the Colleges that have approved them for use.

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

REQUIREMENTS

Major Average

The major average in the Certificate of Proficiency program in Latin includes the grades earned in:

- All LATN courses.

Residency Requirements

To receive a Certificate of Proficiency in Latin, students must complete at least two-thirds of the following coursework (to the nearest highest multiple of 3 credit units) from the University of Saskatchewan.

- Minimum credit units required in the program.

Requirements (18 credit units):

- LATN 112.3: Latin for Beginners I
- LATN 113.3: Latin for Beginners II
- LATN 202.3: Intermediate Latin I
- LATN 203.3: Intermediate Latin II
- 6 credit units of LATN 400.3: Senior Latin (a shell course that may be taken more than once).
These function as capstone courses in which students implement their language skills in reading and studying literary and historical documents in their original Latin.

(Note: there are no 300-level Latin courses. All courses after the second year are intensive reading courses: the experience of the former Department of Classics demonstrated that the distinction between 300-level and 400-level courses, in these circumstances, was meaningless.)

5. RESOURCES

The introduction of this certificate will have no resource implications on the Department of History, given the availability of qualified faculty to contribute as part of their regular duties. The recent incentivized retirements have had no direct impact on our available resources. The recent addition of another Latin instructor at STM (Zachary Yuzwa) enhances our capability to offer an adequate complement of courses on a regular basis.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

A minimum of 18 credit units in Latin is currently offered at the 100 (6 credit units), 200 (6 credit units), and 400 (6 credit units) level each year. The introduction of this certificate program will have no impact on our current practice. While we hope that this certificate will be attractive to students in a variety of programs, it will not have a direct effect on any other program. To the degree that it leads to an increase in enrollment in our senior Latin courses, and to a broadening of the demographic in those courses, the introduction of this certificate will be a benefit to students in Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS).

This program will be administered by the CMRS director, in consultation with the CMRS executive. It will be officially housed in the Department of History, along with the other elements of the CMRS program.

7. BUDGET

No budget allocations will change within the Department or College.

College Statement

From David Parkinson, Vice-Dean, Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, College of Arts and Science

The College of Arts and Science supports the proposal for a Certificate of Proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin. This program option will enable students to receive appropriate recognition for this area of study, which is not available as a degree program.

The proposed program is one part of the College's work to increase innovative programming, in alignment with the plans published by the University, College and Division of Humanities and Fine Arts. This program will offer an opportunity for students to be recognized for a depth of study in the area of Classical and Medieval Latin, in a manner that also respects the resource limitations that originally led to the dissolution of the Department of Classics. The College of Arts & Science is excited to introduce such areas of study as Certificates of Proficiency, which by design are open to a wide variety of students who may choose to follow this initial study with higher level programs.

The divisional Academic Programs Committee approved the proposal on 20 November 2013, as did the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts on 27 November 2013.

Related Documentation

Consultation Forms At the online portal, attach the following forms, as required
Required for all submissions: ☐ Consultation with the Registrar form

NOTICE OF INTENT

New Certificate of Proficiency Program: Classical and Medieval Latin

The faculty members who serve as the executive of the Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies program (CMRS) in the College of Arts and Science propose the establishment of a Certificate of Proficiency in Latin, requiring 18 credit units in LATN (Latin), including two capstone courses at the 400 level, in which students will apply their two years of extensive language instruction in reading and studying Latin works in the original language and situated in their cultural context.

This certificate will allow students who are not majoring in CMRS to develop a proficiency in Latin sufficient for graduate-level research, and will provide them with a means of documenting this competency. It is anticipated that a certificate in this area will be of particular value for students in programs such as English, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Studies, and Religious Studies who wish to engage in advanced research — at either the undergraduate or graduate level — involving primary texts from the ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and early-modern periods. CMRS students may also want to pursue a Latin certificate as a means of documenting their specific proficiency in Latin. We see this certificate as an important means of attracting students to the study of classical, medieval, and renaissance culture. It also offers a sustainable means for highlighting the study of classics, a field of study that disappearing from universities not only in our region but across the country. As far as we know, there is no similar certificate program anywhere else in Canada.

We anticipate that this certificate will be particularly attractive to non-CMRS students enrolled in first- and second-year Latin who currently have no means of formally documenting their training in Latin or incorporating such training into their programs. There are currently 5-6 such students registered in first-year Latin each year, 2-3 of whom often advance to the second-year; we anticipate that those numbers will increase once a specific option is presented that allows students formally to incorporate training in Latin into their programs. Indeed, one of goals of this certificate is to increase enrollments. In addition, there are regularly 2-3 CMRS majors each year who would qualify for this certificate, and others who might be motivated to pursue it if it were an option.

The introduction of this program will assist students in the Humanities and Social Sciences in a number of areas identified in the College's Integrated Plan:

- It encourages interdisciplinarity by allowing students in other disciplines to incorporate elements of Classical and Medieval Studies within their programs and to access the range of expertise represented by the CMRS faculty.
- It fosters inquiry-based and experiential learning by giving students access to primary source materials, in Latin, from the ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and early-modern periods.
- It promotes original research and sophisticated scholarly enquiry by allowing students direct access to primary source materials and providing them with the ability to engage actively in contemporary scholarly discussions of that material.
- With respect to the University's Framework for Planning and other articulations of the University's goals and objectives, the proposed certificate will serve to enhance the quality of instructional programs offered by our college and our university and will help to ensure that we continue to deliver diverse programming in the humanities on our campus.

The introduction of such a certificate will not involve any duplication of programs: as indicated above, it will allow students in a variety of fields to augment their studies in a valuable fashion and will permit CMRS majors to document their specific competency in classical and medieval Latin.

A minimum of 6 credit units in Latin is currently offered by the College of Arts and Science at the 100, 200, and 400 level each year. (There are no 300-level courses in Latin.) None of these courses is currently over-subscribed. As a result, the introduction of a certificate program requiring three years of Latin will have no impact on our current practice and has no resource implications. To the degree that it leads to an increase in enrolment in our senior Latin courses, and to a broadening of the demographic in those courses, the introduction of this certificate will be a benefit to students in CMRS. Given these circumstances, it is not felt to be necessary to request additional funding from the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP).

This program will be administered by the CMRS director in consultation with the CMRS executive. It will be officially housed in the Department of History, along with the other elements of the CMRS program.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. David Parkinson, vice-dean, Humanities and Fine Arts
College of Arts and Science

FROM: Fran Walley, chair, planning and priorities committee of Council

DATE: March 6, 2014

RE: **Notice of Intent for a Certificate of Proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin**

Thank you once again for attending the planning and priorities committee meeting on February 12, 2014, to present the notice of intent for a proposed certificate of proficiency in Classical and Medieval Latin to enable students to focus on a secondary area of specialized study and receive formal recognition of having completed work in that area or to take the certificate as an independent program. The committee noted that Latin retains significance as a language route identified with various disciplines, particularly at the graduate level, and that recently there has been a resurgence of interest in Latin and Greek through programs offered in the community and secondary school system.

The following observations and suggestions are provided for your consideration as you prepare to develop the full program proposal:

- That the full proposal comment on the critical mass and enrolment required to sustain the program, and that the proposal provide evidence of the program demand, internal and external to the university; presently initial enrolment is estimated to be 7 students, with 15 students set as a later goal;
- That the area of specialization in Latin and Greek languages be compared relative to program offerings and demand at other universities;
- That consideration be given to the proposed program sequence and structure so that courses are offered with enough regularity and flexibility that those students unable to complete the courses in the prescribed sequence still have the opportunity to complete the program within a reasonable period of time;
- That the proposal articulate the advantages associated with offering the program as a certificate program as opposed to a minor;

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Dr. David Parkinson

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- That the proponents give some thought as to how the proposed program might fit within a reorganization of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance (CMRS) program offerings, particularly in light of TransformUS rankings.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I wish you well in your efforts as you advance to the full proposal stage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Parkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

- c Roy Dobson, chair, academic programs committee
- Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic
- Russell Isinger, registrar and director of student services
- Peter Stoicheff, dean, College of Arts and Science
- Alexis Dahl, director, Programs Office, College of Arts and Science