

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approval

I = Information*

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) BA in Foreign Language

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

The Department of Language and Literature wishes to add a minor in French. See accompanying documentation (attached).

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL**						
		Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost
Change to a Course								
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I			I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I			I
3.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I			A
4.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A			A
5.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I			I
6.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A			A
7.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I			I
8.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--			A
9.	From U to G or G to U	A	A	A	A			A
10.	Cross list with another dept: U or G level	A	A	A	A			A
11.	Department of record	A	A	A	A			A
12.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A			A
13.	New course — See Adams Center for packet. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A			A

* Councils may request additional information about "Information" items. These items are approved as "Consent Agenda."

** In most cases, approval by only one council is necessary.

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

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Change to a Degree Plan		Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	COUNCIL			Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
					UGEC	UUAC	GRAD				
1.	University Requirements — Require or change a specific course from a menu within a degree plan	A	A	I		I		I	--	I	--
2.	University Requirements — Substitute an existing course for a university requirement within a degree plan	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add a course to or drop a course from the University Requirements	A	A	A		A		A	A	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ♦ ‡	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add or discontinue	A	A	A		A		A	A	A	I
8.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A		A		A	A	A	--
9.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A		I		I	--	I	--
	Minor — Add or discontinue	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	--
10.	Degree — Add or discontinue	A	A	A		A		A	A	A	I
11.	Any change to a graduate degree program*	A	A	A		A		A	--	A	--

♦ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

‡ Program or course changes applying only to a Teacher Education degree will be reviewed by the Teacher Education Council and then forwarded to the UUAC.

* All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

Revised 11-2-11

Approval Chart for Academic Information Changes

Change to the Catalog		Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees*	--	--	--		A		A	A	A	--
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A	A	--
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A	A	--
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A	A	--
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--		A		A	--	A	

* The UUAC approved the clarification that "general requirements for graduation" means the seventeen items in the "General Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees" section of the catalog.

Revised 3-2-11

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
 Signature	3-29-12 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

College Academic Council(s)	
 Signature	3-30-12 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Dean(s)	
 Signature	4-2-12 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Teacher Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

General Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Graduate Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Provost	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Faculty	
_____ Chair of faculty senate	_____ Approval date

President	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Justification for a French Minor: Department of Language and Literature

Overview:

The Department of Language and Literature believes that a French minor is an appropriate addition to our degree plan at this time. As a result of the effective teaching and earnest recruiting of Yann Opsitch, there is a critical mass of students who have completed Beginning and Intermediate French, as well as many students across campus who are native speakers of French, who would enroll in further levels if given the chance to earn a stated minor.

French as a foreign language offers the greatest number of choices for students because of its position as the most frequently taught language in the world after English; presently, along with English, French is the only “global language.” A French minor would position students ideally for a greater number of choices in their study and career plans.

In a survey Yann conducted in the Fall of 2011, a majority of Elementary and Intermediate French students expressed an interest in pursuing a French minor at ACU. Whether these students are majoring in Missions, Nursing, Arts, Spanish or Business, a minor in French clearly positions them for a greater array of choices in their degree plans and in their future careers. Although most of the surveyed Intermediate students who wanted to pursue a minor in French will be graduating soon, their desire to move further in their study of French should be noted.

Purpose Summary:

The purpose of offering a minor in French would be 1) to capture current students who have completed several French classes already but have no institutional motivation to enroll further; 2) to provide students looking to begin study of a foreign language an additional menu item (other than Spanish) in which to minor; and 3) to offer native speakers of French advanced courses of study in a formalized track.

Scope:

(other majors who might benefit: Art, Missions, etc.)

Chris Flanders has written a letter of support (forthcoming).

Courses:

Our department already offers Beginning and Intermediate French; moreover, we had advanced courses on the books, though they are under renovation at this moment. Thus, we can offer the following slate of courses immediately (although the exact courses offered will depend on our conversations with the Academic Councils):

FLFR 111/112 Elementary French (not included for the minor)

FLFR 221/222 Intermediate French

FLFR 353 French Culture (Fall semester)

FLFR 388 Advanced French Conversation (Spring semester)

Staffing

Prof. Yann Opsitch has an MA in French from the University of North Texas. He would be able to add these courses to his teaching load, and no further hires would be necessary.

Expected Demand

From the surveys that we have completed, we have more than 10 students who definitely would move into Upper Division courses as soon as they could be offered. Still others (approx. another 10) have said that they would likely be willing to shift their schedules so as to include a minor in French.

Support Testimony

Melany Cox: (personal email)

Professor Opsitch,

Thank you for your email! I'm so glad you enjoyed my column. I really enjoyed my experience in Paris. In fact, I am taking my parents there next weekend while they are visiting me in Europe.

I think summer intensive French courses are a wonderful idea. I would even go as far as suggesting a Study Abroad Maymester in France. In my experience, the French people are often inaccurately stereotyped, and that is incredibly frustrating. One of the things my French teacher taught me in high school was how to understand the French culture and see it for what it really is. Those lessons were just as helpful as the lessons about the language.

French is such a useful language to learn, though many people don't always realize how important it is or how many possibilities it provides. I believe offering more French classes would help students to realize this.

**French Minor support**

1 message

Jeff Haseltine <haseltinej@acu.edu>

Cole Bennett <cole.bennett@acu.edu>

Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 10:12 AM

To: Jeff Haseltine <haseltinej@acu.edu>

Jeff,

The application for a French minor is a joint venture between Harland Rawl and me; we both enthusiastically support it as two department chairs preparing to join.

Cole

--

B. Cole Bennett, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English

Department Chair

Writing Center Director

Abilene Christian University

325.674.2406

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Dear Dr. Bennett,

I have for some time felt strongly that ACU must continue to deepen its foreign language and literature offerings. As one trained in intercultural studies, I am continually reminded of the critical place that language learning plays in a number of key student outcomes that the ACU community has committed to deliver.

First, I think of the area we often term intercultural competence. Such is clearly at the heart of what we mean in the 21st Century Vision when we promise to form students who “think globally.” To be a Christ-follower that is also a formed “global citizen”, language competence is critical, as language and culture exist as two sides of the same coin. One cannot learn culture in any adequate sense without also learning the language that encodes that culture in symbolic form, viz., language. Give the great importance the French language plays in so many parts of the world (particularly on the African continent), a minor in French makes perfect sense.

Perhaps more directly related to my own work here at ACU is the significant number of students (both as short-term interns as well as fully trained church-planting teams) we train that goes into the Francophone world. To have here on our campus the opportunity to pursue the study of French more deeply would be a huge advantage to students who serve God in the French-speaking world.

Along with Chinese, I cannot imagine an initiative that would provide such an immediate missional “pay-off” as would having a minor in French. Please consider seriously how such would be a great blessing to many of our students. I heartily recommend devoting whatever resources you can to provide a French minor here at ACU.

Respectfully,

Dr. Chris Flanders
Director, Halbert Institute for Missions
Associate Professor of Missions, Graduate School of Theology

From: Neal Coates <coatesn@acu.edu>
Subject: French Minor
Date: March 29, 2012 10:43:19 AM CDT
To: yjo00a@acu.edu

Dear Yann:

You've asked me for some thoughts about having a French minor at ACU. I would strongly support it.

There are two reasons. First, in the larger picture, we need to stress language acquisition as much as possible. ACU needs to do a better job of embracing the learning of second languages across the curriculum and student body. I also believe this will help us in recruiting purposes, and to push our University toward where it should go academically,

Second, and with regard to political studies and activity and jobs, French is a native language in more than two dozen countries and is important in Europe, parts of Africa, and even parts of the Middle East. It is helpful in travel, business, and missions. It is also an official working language in dozens of international organizations, including the UN and and International Red Cross. I also understand that French is the second most frequently used language on the internet.

For all these reasons, I would support a French minor at ACU.

Please feel free to use this email communication as you see fit.

Sincerely,
Neal Coates
Chair, Political Science