The Foreign Language Alternative Program
Proposal Approved by the General Education Committee 1/19/16

**Description:** The Foreign Language Alternative program is for students with a documented disability that interferes with their ability to learn a foreign language and thereby meet the student learning outcomes associated with foreign language in the general education curriculum. Students are approved for an accommodation by the Center for Disability Services. About 300 students are approved for the foreign language accommodation.

*Why Make a Change Now?*
The Foreign Language Alternative Program has existed at the College since 1988 and pre-dates the emphasis on measurable student learning outcomes. When learning outcomes were developed for each general education distribution area in 2012, the alternative program in foreign language was not considered. Although faculty initially created the Foreign Language Alternative Program, over time responsibility for approving courses and advising students has shifted almost exclusively to the Center for Disability Services. These tasks appropriately belong to faculty.

In AY 2014-15, the General Education Committee recognized this omission and began to explore options. Given that very few universities require foreign language of all students regardless of major\(^1\), a review of practices and requirements at other universities was only modestly helpful. In most cases, foreign language requirements reside in a specific school or program and accommodations are made for students on an individual basis by the relevant Dean or Chair.

The committee determined that the existing approach had merit and should be continued if appropriate student learning outcomes could be established and assessed. Therefore, the proposal before you maintains the basic structure of the previous Foreign Language Alternative program, but with three significant improvements:

1) Responsibility for the Foreign Language Alternative Program will reside with the General Education Committee and with the Faculty Coordinator for General Education. The Center for Disabilities will be responsible only for approving the accommodation.

2) Similar to the foreign language general education requirement, student learning will be assessed upon completion of the final course. A pre-post instrument will be used to assess the Foreign Language Alternative program. Assessment results will be reported with the General Education program results.

3) A simple process will allow departments to seek certification for a course to be included in the Foreign Language Alternative program and any future review/re-certification of coursework will proceed on the same cycle as foreign languages.

\(^1\) Based on a 2014 survey of 1,098 colleges and universities, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni estimates that 13% of schools require a foreign language.
The Foreign Language Alternative Requirement

If approved for accommodation in foreign language, students will be required to complete four courses selected from within three categories. Each category carries a student learning outcome that will appear on the syllabus of courses approved for inclusion in the specific category. The four-course structure is intended to roughly parallel the coursework required to complete the foreign language requirement for a majority of students at the College of Charleston (LANG 101, 102, 201, 202) though the general education requirement as stated in the catalog is to “complete the 202-level or its equivalent or demonstrate proficiency at that level....” Data supplied by IRP indicates that roughly half of students studying Spanish or French complete a four-course sequence to meet the requirement. In the less commonly taught languages, the percentage completing four courses is substantially higher (ranging from 59% in German to 89% in Greek). The IRP data report accompanies this proposal.

Since students may begin study in a foreign language, struggle, seek testing, and be approved for accommodation, the requirement retains the flexibility to allow students to combine credit earned in foreign language courses with language alternative courses in meeting the general education requirement.\(^2\) If students complete more than one foreign language course prior to being approved for accommodation, only credit received in the same language will be applied toward the completion of this requirement.

Note: The courses listed below have been approved previously for this program. As of Fall 2016, all courses used for this program will have to be re-certified according to the guidelines listed in this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Approval Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LANG 101</td>
<td>Category 1: select one approved course</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANG 102</td>
<td>Category 2: select one approved course</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANG 201</td>
<td>Category 3: select one approved course from within a Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANG 202</td>
<td>Category 3: select second approved course from within the same Region</td>
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There are Three Student Learning Outcomes for this program when completed in its entirety:

**Student Learning Outcome 1:** Students will explain the role language plays in the construction of culture.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:** Students will use models and theories to analyze a cross-cultural issue.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:** Students will contextualize and analyze artifacts, practices, and perspectives from cultures in a specific world region.

\(^2\) With the prior approval of the Faculty Coordinator for General Education, students may also apply courses completed while studying abroad.
I. Category I: The Role of Language in Culture.

**Defining characteristics:** The primary focus of these courses is to provide students with an introduction to the connection between language and culture.

**Student Learning Outcome 1:** Students will evaluate the role language plays in the construction of culture.

Courses which have been previously approved: LING 101; ANTH 205

II. Category II: Global and Cultural Awareness

**Defining characteristics:** The primary focus of these courses is to introduce students to foundations, theories, and models (as used by a discipline) to understand culture around the world.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:** Students will use models and theories to analyze a cross-cultural issue.

Courses that have been previously approved: ANTH 101; GEOG 101; INTL 100; POLI 103; POLI 104; POLI 260

III. Regions of the World

**Defining characteristics:** The primary focus of these courses is to provide more in-depth study of one country or one world region.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:** Students will contextualize and analyze artifacts, practices, and perspectives from cultures in a specific world region. Courses will be taken in the following regions:

A. Africa
B. Asia
C. Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Ancient Greek, Ancient Rome)
D. Latin America
E. Middle East

Courses that have been previously approved for Region A: Africa

AFST 101; ANTH 322; ARTH 210; ENGL 353; HIST 230; HIST 272; HIST 273; POLI 342

Courses that have been previously approved for Region B: Asia

ARTH 103; ARTH 241; ARTH 242; ARTH 243; ASST 101; ASST 105; HIST 282; HIST 283; HIST 286; HIST 287; LTCH 250; LTJP 250; LTJP 350; PHIL 234; POLI 343; POLI 345; POLI 346; RELS 205; RELS 240; RELS 245; RELS 248
Courses that have been previously approved for Region C: Europe

ARTH 214; ARTH 350; CLAS 101; CLAS 102; CLAS 103; CLAS 104; CLAS 105; CLAS 226; CLAS 242; CLAS 253; CLAS 254; CLAS 255; CLAS 256; HIST 230; HIST 231; HIST 232; PHIL 201; HIST 242; LTFR 150; HIST 244; HIST 345; JWST 230; JWST 330; LTGR 250; LTGR 270; ARTH 277; ARTH 280; ARTH 303; ARTH 370; ARTH 375; ITAL 370; LTIT 270; LTIT 350; LTIT 370; HIST 346; LTRS 110; LTRS 120; LTRS 150; LTRS 210; LTRS 220; LTRS 270

Courses that have been previously approved for Region D: Latin America

ANTH 325; ANTH 327; ANTH 328; ARTH 255; HIST 262; HIST 263; HIST 364; LACS 101; LACS 103; LACS 104; LACS 106; LACS 332; LTPO 250; LTPO 270; LTSP 252; LTSP 254; LTSP 256; POLI 245; POLI 340; POLI 351

Courses that have been previously approved for Region E: Middle East

ARST 100; HIST 276; HIST 277; HIST 359; JWST 200; JWST 210; LTAR 250; LTAR 350; LTAR 382; LTAR 365; RELS 225; RELS 235

Re-certification process: Departments and programs that wish to have their courses used for the Foreign Language Alternative Program will submit a syllabus for the course(s) being re-certified, and complete a short proposal form on which they will explain how the course meets one of the student outcomes and describe one of the assessments in the course that meets the learning outcome for the category. The General Education Committee will review the proposals and determine which courses will be used for the FLA program.

Study Abroad programs that wish to have courses count towards this program will submit a syllabus and course description similar to courses taught on campus. Those courses will also be approved by the General Education committee prior to the student taking the course.

Assessment: Assessment of achievement of the student learning outcomes for the Foreign Language Alternative Program will be accomplished with a pre-post design rather than with embedded course assignments and rubrics. The scale is designed to measure intercultural attitudes, skills, and knowledge. The instrument is currently being used by Purdue University. Students will complete the pre-test online once they have been approved for an accommodation. The Center for Disability Services will regularly provide the Faculty Coordinator for General Education with the list of students approved for accommodation. The list will be regularly updated so that it is always current. Students will complete the post-test online following the completion of the fourth course. The Foreign Language Alternative Program block in Degree Works will not be complete until the final assessment has been taken, and the completion has been indicated by a checkmark in the student’s Degree Audit. The General Education coordinator will verify that the student has completed the post test and tabulate the data.