

SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
ACADEMIC MATTERS AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET
COUNCILS

concerning

CREATION OF AN UNDERGRADUATE
CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING
(#4498)

(Approved by the Rules Committee acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, May 25, 2018)

Presented at the
779th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 13, 2018

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ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

The Program and Budget Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Briefly describe the Proposal

The following proposal describes a 15-credit online professional certificate to recognize student's professional skills in translation and interpreting. The proposed online certificate combines new core translation and interpreting courses created within LLC

Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this certificate.

This online professional certificate has been designed in collaboration with LLC faculty members, including Edwin Gentzler, Luiz Amaral, Barbara Zecchi, Moira Inghilleri and William Moebius, Department Chair. Input was also sought with the staff of the UMass Translation Center, Gorkem Cilam, Shawn Lindholm, and Rio Hernandez. The proposal development process also included an analysis of other professional certificates in translation and interpreting offered at other institutions in order to assess demand within the field. With respect to other programs, our proposed certificate is unique in that it is "language neutral," that is, it is designed to accommodate individuals with any language pair. In analyzing other programs, we found that one of the problems with language-specific courses is that they are less likely to meet certain enrollment goals. Language neutral courses have a greater potential to attract and maintain a solid and consistent intake of students. For assessment purposes, our courses will include additional fees for the services of a body of language reviewers who will be solicited and supervised by the Program Director for the online program, Cristiano Mazzei. Cristiano Mazzei, who was hired after an international search in July 2017, previously was the Director of a combined on-site and on-line Translation and Interpreting program from 2010-2017. Since July, he has been in contact with different stakeholders from around the world, including academics, instructors, employers, and other program directors in this field for feedback and input on curriculum design to ensure that the courses for the proposed certificate are aligned with best practice and the needs of the commercial and voluntary sectors.

Purpose and Goals

Describe the certificate's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills that will be acquired by participating students.

Students who complete the certificate will acquire the translation and interpreting skills that will allow them to make meaningful contributions to multilingual and multicultural societies. They will also acquire knowledge of multiple discourse communities in both the private and public sectors (e.g. education, healthcare, social services, business) and the ability to interact professionally with other professionals and individuals in need of language and cultural mediation. Trained translators and interpreters provide a vital service to local and global communities - including social institutions and businesses - allowing them to interact effectively and efficiently with linguistically and culturally diverse populations. This certificate will equip students with the tools to deliver this service, specifically, translation skills and strategies, glossary and terminology research, sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting,

note-taking, knowledge of standards of practice and codes of ethics, intercultural communication, and critical thinking.

Resources

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

The courses under this proposal will required additional resources to pay for language reviewers. This additional cost will be covered by an additional fee of \$50 (per student) attached to each course per student. Classes are being capped at 30 students.

Curriculum

Please describe the curriculum for this certificate, listing all required courses and possible electives, any prerequisites or GPA requirements, the recommended order or coursework and any other pertinent information. You may attach additional materials related to the curriculum at the end of this section.

See attached form.

Explain how these courses represent a coherent course of study.

Together the courses make a coherent program of study that prepares students to work in diverse settings of translation and interpreting, including schools, hospitals, courtrooms, conference centers, business meetings, and translating texts for a variety of fields, from technical, medical, scientific, public policy, marketing, and more.

It is well suited for individuals who have completed at least secondary education, with high proficiency in a language other than English (LOTE), and who wish to provide accurate, culturally competent translation and interpretation in a variety of settings.

This online certificate also responds to UMass Amherst's values when it comes to diversity, as in "commitment to social progress and social justice," since many of the graduates of this certificate will end up working as crucial language mediators for immigrant populations in the US who desperately need assistance in communicating with public services in order to lead fully integrated lives.

This 15-credit certificate will consist mostly of new courses, with the exception of one existing Comp-Lit courses, (551). Of the 15 credits, 4 courses are required and 5 are electives.

Describe how there is a clear educational objective that can be achieved in an efficient and well-defined manner.

The courses will be offered sequentially, resulting in a 3-semester completion window.

Explain how the course sequence offers a clear objective at the appropriate educational level.

First two courses (LLC 401 and 402) will provide foundational knowledge for the following courses in second semester. Second semester classes focus on developing skills further and incorporating professional ethics and standards. Elective courses will allow students to specialize in certain areas, including translation & technology, medical interpreting, legal interpreting, mental health interpreting, and simultaneous conference interpreting.

Describe the perceived need for this certificate.

Globalization of business, law and trade relations and the changing US demographics have increased demand for translation skills in many fields especially: educational, medical, legal and technical. The Department of Labor's Bureau of Statistics projects a growth of employment for translators and interpreters of 29% from 2014 to 2024, "much faster than the average of most occupations."

Many people display different levels of proficiencies in more than one language, either because they grew up in households that spoke more than one language or due to second-language acquisition in formal educational settings. Being bilingual, in whatever form, is not enough for professionals to provide effective translation and interpreting services. Translation and interpreting are skill-based practices that need to be developed over time. This certificate is being proposed and designed to educate individuals who wish to develop professional interpreting and translation skills and prepare for careers in our increasingly diverse population.

If the courses that comprise the certificate have been or currently are being offered, describe their schedule of availability. If the certificate is comprised of new courses, describe their planned availability.

If the certificate requires or includes courses from outside the sponsoring department, provide evidence of agreement(s) with the unit(s) offering those courses. You may attach any memoranda of understanding below.

If applicable, please attach any memoranda of understanding from other departments or colleges below.

No Files Uploaded at This Time

If the requirements for this certificate overlap with those of another certificate or a degree program, describe that overlap.

(Note that if a student who has completed a certificate seeks clearance for a degree program that overlaps with that certificate program, the Registrar will note on the transcript that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

What type of student is allowed to participate in this certificate program? (E.g., matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students, graduate students, students in a specific degree program, etc.)

Matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students.

What role will this certificate play in relation to other departments or degree programs on campus? Certificates vary widely across campus and may represent a subset of an existing degree program, a multidisciplinary program, or an entirely free-standing area of focus.

This is an online certificate offered through CPE.

Is this a transitional certificate program?

(Transitional certificate programs are comprised of core courses from specific degree programs and may act as stepping stones into those programs. If a student who has completed a transitional certificate matriculates to the University and completes the degree program associated with that certificate, the transcript will note that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

No

**MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of an Undergraduate Certificate
01-19 in Professional Translation and Interpreting, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-079.**