

**DATE:** September 13, 2021

**TO:** Anne Marie Sowder, Chair of the College Council Curriculum Committee

**FROM:** Curriculum Subcommittee

Yu-Wen Chen (Chair), Lubie Alatraste, Tasha Rhodes

**RE:** Final Report for Proposal 20-12: Academic Minor in Hispanic Studies

**PROPOSAL OVERVIEW:**

The Humanities Department proposes a 12-credit academic minor in Hispanic Studies that affords students a focused path to develop their literacy language skills in Spanish (considering the formal variation of the language) and provides a comprehensive knowledge of cultures and literatures of the Spanish-speaking countries around the world. In addition, this minor provides students the opportunity to develop their Spanish language skills while reinforcing their knowledge of other cultures of the Hispanic world. Students will take two required Spanish language courses, and two additional courses from a list of electives taught in English.

**RATIONALE:**

This program aims to provide students with an in-depth comprehension of the existing diverse cultures and languages in the 21 Hispanic countries and the different dialects of Spanish. Aside from mastering an intermediate or advanced proficiency level in Spanish, students will use their cognitive, communicative, and cultural skills in language learning and analysis. In addition, they will delve deeper into social practices and traditions, such as history, music, arts, and literature. This program is an ideal academic minor for students who would like to learn more about the Hispanic language, literature, and culture regardless of their proficiency level.

**STRENGTHS:**

- fulfills many General Education requirements
- engages well with a variety of technological and professional disciplines
- enhances students' ability to gain employment in the multicultural and diverse urban area of New York City, where opportunities for bilingual individuals who speak Spanish and English are growing in multiple fields.
- allows students to critically analyze, comprehend, and interpret different aspects of Hispanic literature and culture.

**WEAKNESSES:**

None

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS DISCUSSED:**

Several minor changes and modifications were suggested during the subcommittee review and meeting with the Provost's office. Suggestions and comments were mainly related to the clarification of rationale and the program requirements. Suggestions were made to include the supporting letters, reference links for other similar programs, program assessment statement, course sequence without the hidden prerequisite, designated program coordinator, staffing support, and the diversity and inclusive education syllabus statement. A suggestion was also made to rename the academic minor to Hispanic Studies. The proposer thoroughly and carefully addressed all individual comments, with changes made as requested and clarification provided.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:**

The proposal was assigned to the subcommittee on Aug. 18, 2021. The subcommittee read and reviewed the proposal and compared them to the *Resolution for Criteria and Process for Proposing a Discipline Minor* document. The subcommittee met on Aug. 30, 2021, to finalize the comments and suggestions. The subcommittee presented and discussed the comments with Prof. David Sánchez Jiménez and Dean Vazquez-Poritz on Aug. 31, 2021. The first revision was received on Sept. 2, 2021. On Sept. 10, 2021, the subcommittee met with Prof. David Sánchez Jiménez, Prof. Ann Delilkan, Provost Pamela Brown, Associate Provost Reginald Blake, Kim Cardascia (Provost's Office), and Dean Vazquez-Poritz. The final version was fully received on Sept. 13, 2021.