New York City College of Technology, CUNY

CURRICULUM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM

This form is used for all curriculum modification proposals. See the [Proposal Classification Chart](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Proposal_Classification_Chart.pdf) for information about what types of modifications are major or minor. Completed proposals should be emailed to the Curriculum Committee chair.

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| --- | --- |
| **Title of Proposal** | Academic Minor in Hispanic Language and Culture |
| **Date** | February 10, 2021 |
| **Major or Minor** | Major |
| **Proposer’s Name** | David Sánchez Jiménez |
| **Department** | Humanities |
| **Date of Departmental Meeting in which proposal was approved** | 2-18-2021 |
| **Department Chair Name** | Ann Delilkan |
| **Department Chair Signature and Date** | 2-16-2021 |
| **Academic Dean Name** | Justin Vazquez-Poritz |
| **Academic Dean Signature and Date** | **2/17/21** |
| **Brief Description of Proposal**  (Describe the modifications contained within this proposal in a succinct summary. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body. | Proposing the creation of a 12-credit academic minor in Hispanic Language and Culture using existing courses. |
| **Brief Rationale for Proposal**  (Provide a concise summary of why this proposed change is important to the department. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body). | The academic minor in Hispanic Language and Culture will be available to students in academic major programs with 12 or more credits available in General Education Flexible Common Core and College Option Requirements. Of the eleven Senior Colleges within CUNY, Medgar Evers College and City Tech are the only colleges that currently do not offer a minor in Spanish despite the fact that the latter is a Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). The program is designed to provide students with a better understanding of Spanish language and culture that enhances their skills in their professions and augments their career opportunities in the country’s multilingual settings and in other parts of the world. Spanish is the native language of more than 450 million people in 21 countries and the second most commonly spoken language in the United States. 43 million in the U.S. are native Spanish speakers. It is also the second most widely spoken language in NYC: English, 70.72%; Spanish 14,44%; Chinese 2,61% (MLA, 2015). |
| **Proposal History**  (Please provide history of this proposal: is this a resubmission? An updated version? This may most easily be expressed as a list). | (2021-2-17) - Initial submission. |

Please include all appropriate documentation as indicated in the Curriculum Modification Checklist.

For each new course, please also complete the New Course Proposal and submit in this document.

Please submit this document as a single .doc or .rtf format. If some documents are unable to be converted to .doc, then please provide all documents archived into a single .zip file.

**ALL PROPOSAL CHECK LIST**

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| --- | --- |
| Completed CURRICULUM MODIFICATION FORM including: |  |
| * Brief description of proposal | X |
| * Rationale for proposal | X |
| * Date of department meeting approving the modification |  |
| * Chair’s Signature | X |
| * Dean’s Signature | X |
| Evidence of consultation with affected departments  List of the programs that use this course as required or elective, and courses that use this as a prerequisite. | N/A |
| Documentation of Advisory Commission views (if applicable). |  |
| Completed [Chancellor’s Report Form](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Chancellor_Report_Quick_Reference_Guide1.doc). |  |

**EXISTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSALS**

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| --- | --- |
| Documentation indicating core curriculum requirements have been met for new programs/options or program changes. |  |
| Detailed rationale for each modification (this includes minor modifications) |  |

Proposal for an Academic Minor in Hispanic Language and Culture Sponsored by the Humanities Department

Major Curriculum Modification

Rationale:

Declaring a minor is a great way for students to take classes from different departments that will complement the degree that they earn, helping them broaden their skills and discover new ways of thinking, which will make them more in demand in the professional world. Of the eleven Senior Colleges within CUNY, Medgar Evers College and City Tech are the only colleges that currently do not offer a minor in Spanish despite the fact that the latter is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). City Tech is home to many multilingual students, many speaking Spanish at home. The issues of identity, diversity, and inclusion are promoted by the college’s mission statement.

For students enrolled at City Tech, the development of strong communicative skills in the Spanish language is advantageous in the United States and opens doors to an increasingly globalized world. Spanish is the native language of more than 450 million people in 21 countries and the second most commonly spoken language in the United States (43 million of the country’s population are native Spanish speakers). Spanish is also the second most widely spoken language in NYC: English, 70.72%; Spanish 14,44%; Chinese 2,61% (MLA, 2015). Moreover, it is an important language of culture, with 11 Nobel Laureates in Literature, and plays a central role in international business and commerce. The creation of the proposed academic minor seeks to validate the students’ bilingualism and can help students both broaden their career path and navigate a competitive job market.

The Humanities Department proposes a 12-credit academic minor 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. These skills will further enhance their career prospects, especially in the multicultural and diverse urban area of New York City, where opportunities for bilingual individuals who speak Spanish and English are growing in the specialized fields of technology, health care, social services, paralegal, etc. (Martinez, 2015, 2016).

The required and elective courses of this academic minor fulfill many General Education requirements, including the Common Core, and engage well with a variety of technological and professional disciplines, including Health Communication, Nursing, Law and Paralegal Studies, Hospitality Management, Human Services, Emerging Media, Professional and Technical Writing, Education, Architectural Technology, Construction Management Technology and Entertainment Technology. A list of skills complementing these academic majors at City Tech can be found at the end of this section; some are key for students to succeed in their studies and careers.

The list below shows the most important skills students acquire when they learn a new language:

Personal development

1. Analytical skills improve when students study a foreign language.
2. Creativity is increased with the study of foreign languages.
3. Skills like problem solving, dealing with abstract concepts, are increased when you study a foreign language.
4. Foreign language study enhances listening skills and memory.
5. A foreign language student is able to present and defend his/her own opinions on current issues in a formal discussion or debate using sociolinguistic competence – using language with the appropriate social meaning.
6. Foreign language study introduces students to team dynamics: experience working with a team on a long-term project.
7. The study of a foreign language improves the knowledge of one’s own language: English vocabulary skills increase.
8. Foreign language study offers a sense of the past: culturally and linguistically.

Professional development

1. Business skills plus foreign language skills make an employee more valuable in the marketplace.
2. Foreign language study enhances one’s opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.
3. Four out of five new jobs in the US are created as a result of foreign trade.
4. Foreign languages provide a competitive edge in career choices: one is able to communicate in a second language.
5. Your marketable skills in the global economy are improved if you master another language.
6. One is at a distinct advantage in the global market if one is as bilingual as possible.

Diversity and interculturality

1. Foreign language study creates more positive attitude and less prejudice towards people who are different, which leads to an appreciation of cultural diversity.
2. Learning a foreign language promotes understanding a different culture and acquiring intercultural competence.
3. Dealing with another culture enables people to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture.
4. The study of foreign languages teaches and encourages respect for other peoples: it fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature.
5. Foreign languages expand one’s view of the world, liberalize one’s experiences, and make one more flexible and tolerant.

REFERENCES:

ACTFL. (2012). *ACTFL proficiency guidelines* [Electronic version]. http://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012\_FINAL.pdf.

Martinez, G. (2015). *Spanish in the U.S. Health Delivery System*. Informes del Observatorio del Instituto Cervantes en Harvard, 1-24. http://cervantesobservatorio.fas.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/013\_reports\_spanish\_health\_system\_us.pdf

Martinez, G. (2016). Against Medical Spanish: Spanish in the Health Professions Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. *ADFL Bulletin*, 44 (1): 9-18.

The Modern Language Association of America. (2015). *MLA Language Map Data Center*. https://web.archive.org/web/20130815140430/http:/www.mla.org/cgi-shl/docstudio/docs.pl?map\_data\_results

Description of the Proposed Academic Minor

The academic minor in Hispanic Language and Culture will be available to students in academic major programs with 12 or more credits available in General Education Flexible Common Core and College Option Requirements. Advising for the academic minor will be conducted by a full-timer Spanish instructor of the Humanities department designated as the program director. The Hispanic Language and Culture Minor provides students the opportunity to develop their Spanish language skills while reinforcing their knowledge of other cultures of the Hispanic world.

For the academic minor Hispanic Language and Culture, students take two required language courses beginning as low as SPA 1102 (following the Spanish Language sequence) and two additional courses from a list of electives. Students are placed in the first of the two required courses according to their proficiency level in Spanish, or as a continuation of the prerequisite SPA 1101, if Spanish language was previously taken at City Tech. Therefore, students should be able to declare and begin working on academic minor courses during the first semester. In cases where they are placed in SPA 1101, students will start their academic minor in their second semester. Generally, SPA 1102 runs three sections every semester. At this level, students learn basic grammar structures (preterit and imperfect indicative) and more extensive vocabulary concerning everyday activities and are gradually introduced to the cultural component of the language. However, students will take their two consecutive language courses according to placement (e. g., SPA 1102 and SPA 2201, or SPA 2201 and SPA 2202, or SPA 2202 and SPA 3301). Apart from these required courses, they will be able to choose two electives among a large pool of courses across disciplines offered within the Humanities department and focused on Hispanic history, culture, and human values. These are MUS 1211, MUS 1212, LATS 1461, LATS 2202 and LATS 2501. Such courses allow students to learn how to critically analyze, comprehend, and interpret different aspects of the Hispanic literature and culture.

**Required and Elective Courses for the Academic Minor**

Students must earn a C or above in all academic minor course work in order to be granted an academic minor designation on their transcripts. The table below illustrates the requirements of the academic minor in Hispanic Language and Culture.

**REQUIRED COURSES (6 credits; choose two consecutive courses from the list below)**

SPA 1102 Elementary Spanish II (WCGI)\*

SPA 2201 Intermediate Spanish I (WCGI) or SPA 2201HS Spanish for Heritage Speakers (WCGI)

SPA 2202 Intermediate Spanish II (WCGI) or SPA 2202HS Spanish Oral and Written Academic Communication for Heritage Speakers (WCGI)

SPA 3301 Survey of Early Spanish Literature (WCGI)

SPA 3302 Survey of Modern Spanish Literature (WCGI)

**ELECTIVE COURSES (6 credits, choose two)**

SPA 2203 Spanish for Health Professionals (WCGI)

MUS 1211 Music of Latin America (CE)\*

MUS 1212 Introduction to World Music (WCGI)

LATS 1461 Latin American History (WCGI)

LATS 2202 Latin American Literature (WCGI)

LATS 2501 Puerto Rican and Latin American in New York and Urban America (USED)\*

Total credits: 12

\*CE = Creative Expression, Common Core  
\*USED = US Experience in its Diversity, Common Core

\*WCGI = World Cultures and Global Issues, Common Core

**Programmatic Learning Outcomes**

 Students will:

* Demonstrate written and conversational mastery of the Spanish language.
* Demonstrate critical and analytical abilities through discussion and analysis of texts, films, music, and linguistic data.
* Demonstrate sensitivity to diversity and cultural differences.
* Demonstrate an understanding of Hispanic cultures and perspectives based on cultural practices and products.
* Understand and examine the nature of literary/cultural creations and phenomena within their specific context.

Sample Curriculum Map

Below is a sample curriculum map for a student majoring in Architectural Technology with an academic minor in Hispanic Language and Culture:

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| **Gen Ed Requirements for Architectural Technology** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| World Cultures and Global Issues | SPA 2202 |
| Additional Flexible Common Core | LATS 2501 |
| Additional Liberal Arts | SPA 3301 |
| Additional Liberal Arts (Advanced) | MUS 1211 |

As the Sample Curriculum Map illustrates, an Academic Minor in Hispanic Language and Culture can be completed in all BS degrees and most BTech degrees within the required credits of the degree program.