

DATE: September 14, 2021

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

FROM: Curriculum Subcommittee

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

RE: Final Report for Proposal 20-13: Academic Minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW:

The Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies is housed in the Department of Humanities and includes coursework from the Humanities, Social Science, and Architectural Technology. The 15-credit minor degree is designed to provide students with not only necessary and sufficient Arabic language skills, but also an opportunity to explore Arab history and culture. Elective courses in Islamic Art, Music, Ethnic relations, and history reveal rich intersections among linguistic, historical, and multicultural dimensions. This Academic minor consists of three required courses, plus any two additional courses from a selection of eight electives.

RATIONALE:

The Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies gives students a foundation in the Arabic language, including speaking, reading, writing, and listening, as well as the opportunity to advance their knowledge of Arab cultures. Arabic speakers are in great demand. The U.S. State Department has named Arabic a “critical language.” Being proficient in the language can open many doors for careers in government, law, international relations/diplomacy, business, hospitality, health professions, and education. This minor provides students at City Tech with an opportunity to explore multicultural dimensions of their professional studies related to the global Arabic diaspora. It broadens their options for careers in art and culture, education, magazines, museums, advertising, tourism, youth programs, communications, Arabic consulates, nonprofits, and the United Nations.

STRENGTHS:

- fulfills many General Education requirements
- engages well with students in all BS degrees and most BTech degrees
- enhances students’ ability to gain valuable skills in intercultural understanding and language competency when working with Arabic speaking populations.
- broadens students’ options for careers in art and culture, education, magazines, museums, advertising, tourism, youth programs, communications, Arabic consulates, nonprofits, and the United Nations.

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 reference links for other similar programs, program assessment statement, course sequence without the hidden prerequisite, designated program coordinator, and the diversity and inclusive education syllabus statement. 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. Khalid Lachheb and Dean Vazquez-Poritz on Aug. 31, 2021. The first revision was received on Sept. 1, 2021. On Sept. 10, 2021, the subcommittee met with Prof. Khalid Lachheb, Prof. Ann Delilkan, Provost Pamela Brown, Associate Provost Reginald Blake, Kim Cardascia (Provost's Office), and Dean Vazquez-Poritz. The final version was revised on Sept. 14, 2021.