



Michelle Hardley <mhardley@westmont.edu>

Major Units for Catalogue

Mary Collier <collier@westmont.edu>

Wed, Mar 26, 2014 at 11:12 AM

To: Michelle Hardley <mhardley@westmont.edu>

Dear Michelle,

The Faculty of Modern Languages respectfully request that the unit requirements for our majors in French (Language and Literature Track and French Studies Track) and in Spanish (Language and Literature Track and Hispanic Studies Track) be restored to their original

40 upper-division units for the Language and Literature Tracks in both French and Spanish;

44 upper-division units for the French Studies and Hispanic Studies Tracks.

The reason for having changed to 38-40 and 42-44, respectively, was necessary years ago when all records went on-line, because of the technical inadequacies of the previous system for recording transferred units. With our new technology the two-unit gap is no longer needed to record off-campus program units; and, more importantly, it obviates creating 2-unit tutorials and special studies for students who have completed courses entirely adequate to satisfy requirements for the majors.

Many thanks to you and your Committee for your attention to this matter.

Amitiés! — Mary Collier

Mary Blackwood Collier, Ph.D.
Chevalier de France, Ordre des Palmes Académiques
Professor of French and Chair
Department of Modern Languages
Westmont College
(805) 565-7571



Major Units for Catalogue

Michelle Hardley <mhardley@westmont.edu>
To: Mary Collier <collier@westmont.edu>

Thu, Apr 17, 2014 at 10:54 AM

Hi Mary,

Apologies for the delay in a reply, I needed to check back through some older catalogs and consult with Bill and Bob Kuntz to see if they had knowledge of the timing and rationale of the change in units to fit the data systems we had at the time. From what I can determine, up until the 95-97 catalog the French and Spanish majors had a set 36 unit requirement for the major where 16 units needed to come from the semester abroad. In the 97 catalog the unit count was made more flexible to account for the fact that some students take between 14-16 units abroad (which the department was ok with) so a student could have between 34-36 units to finish the major. That flexibility has continued until today with the current unit counts of 38-40 units for the Language and Literature track and 42-44 units for the French/Hispanic Studies tracks.

In terms of your request to remove the range and institute the higher unit count for each major and track, since this is a request to change the unit count for your major it needs to be approved by Academic Senate. Once approved it goes into effect (and into the catalog) for the next year. But I am a little confused on why you would want to remove the flexibility the department has to allow a student to have a 14-16 unit abroad experience. Will all abroad programs now be giving their students 16 total units, or will some still only have 14 or 15 units? If the latter is true, then making each track a hard 40 or 44 units seems to increase (not decrease) the number of 1-2 unit tutorials the department would need to provide to get the students to the final 40 or 44 number. With the range system you have now, the department has the purview of waiving the units not done while the student is abroad. I guess another way to look at it is we can count courses needed to complete a major, or we can count units. Your current system allows you to count courses, which gives your students flexibility while abroad. What you are proposing is to instead count units, which means a student who takes 5 3-unit classes abroad will be 1 unit short and need to come up with either another 1 unit option or take a whole new 4 unit class to meet the unit requirements.

As I was looking at how the program evals are set within the two majors and their two tracks I learned the following:

- French Language - no overall unit tracking of the 38-40 units needed
- French Studies - no overall unit tracking of the 42-44 units needed
- Spanish Language - no overall unit tracking of the 38-40 units needed
- Hispanic Studies - looks for at least 42 units for overall unit tracking

So since we only track 1 of the 4 tracks for units, you as a department have the flexibility now to adjust each students unit count to the number of off campus units they have.

These are my initial thoughts. And unless Senate can receive and act on your proposal to tighten the unit requirement for the tracks this semester your 2014-2015 course catalog will stay the same as this years.

I hope this helps!

Michelle

[Quoted text hidden]

Michelle M. Hardley
Registrar
Westmont College
955 La Paz Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 565-7263
Fax: (805) 565-7399