

Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Dr. Larry A. Robinson
Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: February 23, 2015

Re: Arabic Minor



The Office of the Provost is in receipt of the Faculty Senate approval of the minor in Arabic. Based on the current enrollment growth of this program, the increasing significance of the Arabic language in the West, and its role in recruitment of diplomacy students, we concur with the Senate's approval. We are also pleased to see that the library resources and inventory of courses for the minor are already in place.



FACULTY SENATE
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Larry Robinson, Provost and Executive Vice President, Seton Hall University

From: Faculty Senate, Seton Hall University

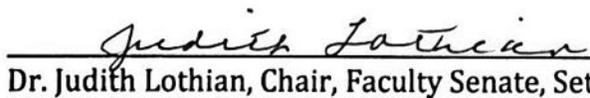
Re: Arabic Minor

Date: February 9, 2015

At the January 30, 2015, meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate approved the creation of an Arabic Language Minor in the College of Arts & Sciences. The proposal is attached.

Received by:

 February 9, 2015
Dr. Larry Robinson, Provost and Executive Vice President, Seton Hall University

 February 9, 2015
Dr. Judith Lothian, Chair, Faculty Senate, Seton Hall University

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

[Meeting of January 30, 2015](#)

1:00 p.m.

Beck Rooms

Walsh Library

9. Committee Motions

b. Academic Policy Committee

i. Arabic Language Minor

a. [Arabic Minor Proposal](#)

b. *Motion:* The Senate approves the creation of the Arabic Language minor in the College of Arts & Sciences.

*Vote: approved unanimously by voice vote.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Proposal to Create an Undergraduate Minor in Arabic

Prepared by: Frederick J. Booth, Chair
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
College of Arts & Sciences
October 21, 2014

I. Program overview, rationale, and expectations

For a number of years, the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures has been offering courses in Arabic as one of the six United Nations official languages for the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. Arabic also attracts students from Arts and Sciences given the increasing status of Arabic as a global language.

Numerous students have requested that the department offer more advanced Arabic classes and develop a minor. Our Arabic program has been growing, with 38 students in Elementary, 24 in Intermediate, and 15 in Advanced this semester. The goal of the minor will be to provide students with proficiency in reading and writing Modern Standard Arabic and a deeper understanding of the cultural, religious, political and historical aspects of the Arabic-speaking world.

The proposed minor would require 18 credits above the elementary level, as do all of the other Modern Language (French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, German) minors.

The sequence for Arabic is as follows:	Credits
ARAB 2101-2102 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic	6
ARAB 3101-3102 Advanced Modern Standard Arabic	6
Language, culture or literature electives above the advanced level:	6
Total	18

Students may choose two courses from the following electives: HIST 1551, 1552, 3520, 3521, 3528, 3530, 3554; RELS 2415, 2416, 3433, 3434; POLS 2711, 3611; DIPL 4116, 4180, 4186, 4187, 4280.

In accord with the Department's Student Learning Objectives, Arabic minors will learn to:

1. Identify key figures, historical events, and concepts in language, literature, philosophy, religion, mythology, science, politics, history, drama, art, and architecture in the Arabic-speaking world.
2. Interpret, analyze, and compare significant works from Arabic cultures.
3. Develop the ability to read, write, and speak Modern Standard Arabic proficiently.
4. Show an understanding of cultural diversity by comparing the values and practices of the Arabic cultures to our own.
5. Effectively research and write expository and/or argumentative papers.

II. Internal and External Assessment

By all accounts in both the public and private sectors, the demand for individuals who are fluent in Arabic is rising, and will continue to rise throughout the decade. Arabic is the 5th most commonly spoken native language in the world, with well over 300 million native speakers of the language. Nearly 1,000,000 Americans speak Arabic at home, according to the US Census Bureau. In addition to the millions of native speakers, many more millions know Arabic as a foreign language, since as the language of the Koran, it is understood by Muslims throughout the world.

There is a high demand for and low supply of Arabic-speakers in the Western world. Relatively few Westerners ever venture to learn Arabic. With the growing importance of the Middle East in international affairs, there is thus an extreme shortage of workers in the West who are versed in Arabic language and culture, so that the US State Department government has designated Arabic as a language of strategic importance. Those who study Arabic can find careers in a variety of fields, including journalism, business and industry, education, finance and banking, translation and interpretation, consulting, foreign service and intelligence.

Undergraduate study of Arabic has grown around the nation, with 24,000 enrolled in Arabic classes on 2006, and more than 35,000 in 2009, according to the Modern Language Association. (The 2013 enrollments will be released this fall.) Here in New Jersey, more than 1,000 undergraduates took Arabic in 2009, growing from 700 in 2006. Twenty-one New Jersey colleges and universities offered Arabic in 2009, including not only Rutgers and Princeton, but also Montclair State, William Paterson, St. Peter's, Drew, and Fairleigh Dickinson.

III. Internal Impact

The Arabic minor includes electives from the A&S History, Religion, Political Science departments, and from the School of Diplomacy. There will not be a duplication of courses or cross-listings. There will be no competition among programs for students or resources.

IV. Program needs

There is now one full-time faculty member teaching Arabic, as well as an adjunct, which is sufficient for the program at its current size. The Language Resource Center has Arabic audio

materials and DVDs, and after a new LRC Director is hired, the Arabic program will assess the need for additional materials.

The staff of Walsh Library reports that “we are on solid ground for an undergraduate minor” in this field. The Library has adequate materials for undergraduate inquiry in these areas, and is supporting the courses currently on the books reasonably well. If additional dual-language texts or texts in Arabic are found to be needed, purchasing those texts is within the capacity of the Library budget. So, the proposal has Library approval with no request for further resources.

No additional facilities, classroom space, equipment, or administrative services will be required beyond those provided to the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures.

V. Program Evaluation

In addition to the standard academic indicators of success (honors, admission to graduate school, law school, etc.) student achievement in the Arabic minor will be assessed according to the protocols established by the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures for all Modern Language minors. No outside accreditation is required.