Weber State University  
2019 Strategic Planning Report (SPR)-EZ

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* Department: CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
* Degree Program(s) BA in Latin
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SPR TEMPLATE—EZ FORM

STRATEGIC PLAN: We engaged in developing a strategic plan a couple years ago that called for us to increase the number of majors in Latin. We have not been able to meet the goals of that plan, and so have developed an alternative. We will discontinue the major (after allowing two students who started in 2014 to finish their degrees) and instead, focus on the following two initiatives:

* 1. offering two new certificates of proficiency (Latin for Health Professions; Latin for PoliSci and Pre-Law);
  2. offering a new minor (Humanities in the Western World: the Revised Tradition).

New Certificates:

These two new certificates align to WSU’s objectives of value/quality as students in health professions and political science/pre-law areas will be far better prepared to succeed in their selected professions. Coursework for each specific certificate (Latin for Health Professions; Latin for PoliSci and Pre-Law) includes teaching students the Latin bases to their professions’ vocabulary, thereby enhancing these students’ abilities to master the languages used daily in their fields of employment. Studies in the journal “Latin language today” (see link) indicate that students with four semesters of targeted Latin (that is, targeted to the vocabulary used in medical, pharmaceutical, legislative and legal practices) succeed in subsequent professional training at far higher rates than students without this targeted Latin coursework.

* + 1. Data: See journal referenced above for data on students’ success in applying for professional schools after four semesters of Latin (improved GRE and GMAT scores), as well as for data on success in professional schools.
    2. Plan: Work with the Colleges of Health Professions and Social & Behavioral Sciences and others to publicize the benefits of this new certificate. Work with advisors so they understand the benefits. Prepare new coursework that is “Applied Latin” in the areas of health professions and law/political studies.
    3. Goal: Generate student enrollments in these certificates; increase student success.
    4. Aligned to AA Outcomes: Value/Quality; Affordability (our major is costly and is not enrolling a sufficient number of students to maintain on its own; we need to bolster SCH with the certificates. Doing so will offset the cost of the major.); Access/Growth (we can nurture the students enrolled in both certificates, providing one-on-one counseling and advice, thereby contributing to retention).
    5. Funding: We need approximately $250 to engage in advertising once the courses and new certificates are ready.
    6. Metrics: how many students enroll for coursework in the certificates? Can we increase those numbers by 2% each year?

New Minor: We do not want to bring back a traditional western civilization curriculum. But we believe that an interdisciplinary minor that focuses on a critical approach to western traditions (history, arts, philosophy, literature, civics, political history) offers students an understanding of at least one thread among the many that contribute to American culture today. While faculty in Latin language will take the lead in orchestrating this interdisciplinary minor, we intend to work with faculty in Poli Sci, History, Art History, Theatre, and Literature to develop a truly interdisciplinary minor that will allow students: first, to immerse themselves in the culture of the Greeks, Romans, and medieval Europeans; and second, to analyze these cultures from today’s perspectives, using today’s tools. While the subject matter is ancient through medieval, methods will be contemporary and based in critical thinking.

* + 1. Data: Surveys sent to students majoring in Languages, Art, Poli Sci and History indicate a strong interest in this minor (98 or 100 majors surveyed said they would consider this minor; 52 or those 98 said they were very interested).
    2. Plan: We will submit a Hemingway grant to support collaborative development of this program (that is, revising courses to make all contribute to the full package). We have met with most programs that require students to complete a minor; this includes programs in Health Professions, Business, Social Science, Science, and Applied Sciences. There has been great interest expressed in the minor, particularly because we are designing it in a way that allows students to develop further and hone the program outcomes of their majors while completing courses in the minor.
    3. Goal: Have all requirements and coursework associated with the minor reviewed and approved by appropriate curriculum committees etc., prior to Fall 2020. Offer and advertise the minor starting with that semester. Monitor enrollments, ensuring that we see increasing SCH over the first three years. Increase faculty presentations and publications on digital humanities.
    4. Funding: Provide one course-reassignment for one of the Classics faculty to shepherd curriculum through the approval process. Faculty then move back to regular load until the minor generates at least 15 graduates per year, at which time we would ask for one course-reassignment per year for a director to do all advising and advertising.

It would be helpful if additional funding ($1000) could be found to partially support faculty travel to the Digital Humanities conference this summer, as the conference focuses on using digital humanities to study/analyze ancient texts.

* + 1. Aligned to AA outcomes: This minor will offer students a fascinating new perspective on texts that have been influential over centuries. As such, it contributes to Value/Quality. It also will require that students make extensive use of digital materials, thereby preparing them extensively for our increasingly digital world. With respect to Affordability, this minor makes better use of two faculty members who currently are struggling to find students for upper-division coursework. The minor will allow those faculty members to generate higher SCH numbers, thereby allowing them to be more efficient with state funding. Access and Growth: this minor introduces first-generation students to what formerly was referred to as “the canon,” but does so in a way that invites students to analyze who was left out of the canon and why. It encourages the critical thinking and critical analysis that is at the heart of a liberal education.
    2. Metrics: After two years, how many students have declared this minor? How far have they progressed toward graduation?

1. STRATEGIC SUMMARY:
   1. Initiative: Focus on Service Role with Certificates of Proficiency

Enrollments in our major have been in a slow decline over many years (see Program Review Dashboard). This decline is a national phenomenon (see link to Discipline Data), so we are planning to shift our resources from offering the major to offering two certificates of proficiency that will be supportive of other programs. We will become primarily a service department; doing so will increase our SCHs, decrease cost per SCH, and offer students in professional fields a chance to improve their proficiency and understanding of the Latin base to their professions’ vocabularies.

By spring 2020, we will have shepherded two new certificates of proficiency through the curriculum approval process. We will advertise the new certificates extensively.

By fall 2020, we will have at least eight students enrolled in each certificate program.

* 1. Initiative: Focus on a new Interdisciplinary Minor

In consultation with faculty from all other colleges at the institution, we plan to develop a classics minor that will help enhance students’ understanding of civics, political history, western culture and languages. In addition to contributing to students’ knowledge base, the minor will teach students critical analysis, research, and introduce them to the use of new digital tools to understand and question the past, leading to a possible reshaping of the future.

By spring 2020, we will have shepherded the minor through the curriculum approval process.

By fall 2020, we will have advertised the minor and have several students enrolled.