Proposed Change to an Existing Degree: Academic Component

Please answer all relevant questions below. Consultation with the appropriate Associate Provost on a draft of the proposal is recommended.

Using the relevant template, please submit a budget even if no additional resources are needed.

Title of Degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):
Bachelor of Arts in German Language & Literature

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

William Waters
Associate Professor of German & Comparative Literature
745 Commonwealth Ave
STH 616
waters@bu.edu
617-353-6214

2. Please describe briefly the proposed change to the existing degree:

The new major features newly designed Gateway and Capstone courses to be taken by all WLL majors together, as well as the requirement to take at least one course in WLL outside the German
specialization. These new requirements are meant to build cohort unity across the department and to encourage cross-language comparative thinking. The revisions also reduce the total number of courses required for the major from 12 to 11 and add flexibility in course choice within the specialization, making it possible for students to choose their own focus on German language, literature, or culture.

3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed change to the existing degree:

This proposal to revise the existing major in German Language & Literature is part of a department-wide initiative to update all WLL majors in response to our internal assessment process, to the advice of the external committee in WLL’s 2015 APR report, and to feedback from students. The revisions have the following goals:

- to enable students to place their studies of the German-speaking world within a larger comparative and world context, as befits WLL’s new identity as a Department of World Languages & Literatures
- to encourage students to identify not just as students of German, but as part of a larger departmental culture through taking courses with and getting to know faculty and students working in other languages
- to make it more feasible for students to enter and complete the German major
- to attract more double majors by reducing total requirements
- to attract majors who seek language proficiency for professional use but have less interest in literature
- to simplify and streamline student advising
- to strengthen the department’s identity by unifying the general look and feel of our majors while preserving their distinctive content and cultural emphases
- to encourage the development of more explicitly comparative courses to serve as WLL breadth electives
- to further integrate language study with literary and cultural topics
- to boost enrollments in WLL courses taught in English, as our many Japanese and Chinese majors take courses across the department to fulfill the WLL Breadth requirement.

4. Please describe how the proposed change(s) advances the Strategic Plans of the department, of the school/college, and of the University:
WLL’s 2015 updated strategic plan sets the goal, recommended by our APR report from 2015, of articulating a “more engaging and cohesive vision” of our collective mission to “develop students’ understanding of how language, culture, and thought interrelate in societies past and present, through the study of literature.” The first step in this process was to rename the department “World Languages & Literatures.” These major revisions, meant to integrate the majors within a larger context of the study of World literature, are the second step.

The revisions also reduce and streamline requirements to make advising less complicated and more effective, another goal mentioned in WLL’s 2015 strategic plan. We anticipate increases in number of majors and in student identification with WLL as a department, which should make for stronger connections among the student body and set the foundation for stronger ties to alumni, a goal that is set out in the CAS Strategic plan and one that is crucial for WLL as a relatively new department. The major’s increased flexibility and reduced requirements will make room for more interdisciplinary work. Finally, the major’s emphasis on the connections between German and World literature will enhance students’ understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity, helping “to foster the engagement of Boston University in the city and the world,” as outlined in BU’s strategic plan.

5. Please list all the program requirements for the current and revised programs so that review committees can easily see the changes (expand the table as needed and denote new courses in bold print):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current program</th>
<th>Revised program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWO of the following courses in comparative literature and/or linguistics:</td>
<td>ONE Gateway Course: XL 100: Explorations in World Literature</td>
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<td>○ linguistics: CAS LX 250</td>
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<td>○ comparative literature: CAS XL 100, XL 222*, XL 223, XL 224, XL 225</td>
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<td>FOUR language-focus courses: two courses numbered LG 302-309 and two courses</td>
<td>THREE German language courses above LG 212:</td>
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<td>numbered LG 310–LG 345</td>
<td>- One Third-Year (LG 302–309)</td>
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<td>- One Third-Year or 3Y+ Tier (LG 310-345)</td>
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<td>- 3Y+ Tier (LG 310-345) or Fourth-Year (LG 403-404)</td>
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<td>FIVE literature/culture courses: CAS LG 350 and</td>
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<td>LG 250: Masterpieces of German Literature in</td>
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<td>English translation</td>
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<td>LG 350: Introduction to German Literature in German</td>
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<td>ONE course on German literature conducted in German, numbered LG 450-470</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWO courses on German literature, film, linguistics or upper-level language numbered LG 251-289, 315, 387, or 400 or higher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE elective course numbered LG 250 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE WLL Breadth Elective not focused on German. May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101 and CAS CC 102, by LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Option to increase to two courses, substituting for one course on German literature, film, linguistics or upper-level language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE Capstone Course using German-language materials: XL 479 Senior Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total: 12 courses</td>
<td>Total: 11 courses</td>
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6. Is this change a result of program learning outcomes assessment and/or academic program review? If yes, please describe:

Yes! The APR process conducted in 2015 reaffirmed that WLL's greatest resource is its rich diversity in course offerings and faculty expertise; it also noted that students are not availing themselves of the opportunities this presents. The APR committee described our majors’ course requirements as “punitive.” At the same time, our own learning outcomes assessment process found that graduating seniors felt strongly identified with their majors but much less so with the department (then called MLCL). We had neglected to foreground our departmental identity and to spell out a learning outcome implicitly obvious to the faculty (but never explicitly described in our documents or explained to the students): all WLL majors should develop intercultural literacy and should graduate with a global perspective on their language and culture of specialization, a knowledge of its place in the world.

These five revised majors are our response. We have streamlined and simplified as described above. We anticipate this new shared structure, with joint freshman seminar and capstone, will encourage students to identify with the department as a whole and to take more courses beyond their
specialization. We have worked to create a more cohesive and appealing major, where the learning objectives are clear to students from day one. We believe this will lead to an increase in number of majors and double majors (including within WLL), to higher overall enrollments, and to an even more dynamic and diverse intellectual culture in the department.

7. Please list learning outcomes for the revised program:

   1. Advanced knowledge of major themes and genres in German literature and culture in their historical contexts, including links to other European and world literary traditions.
   2. Critical thinking, communication, and writing skills within areas of content and cultural knowledge.
   3. Proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in German at or above a level (ACTFL intermediate-high) where these skills can be used for communication in everyday and academic situations.

8. How does the change place your program in the context of programs at peer institutions?

Prior to the revision, our 12-course German Language & Literature major (with an additional 4-course prerequisite of LG 111-212) was about in line with German Language & Literature majors at peer and peer-plus institutions. The revision creates a major that is sufficiently language-intensive to prepare students for graduate work in German, while incorporating the breadth and flexibility of the increasingly widely offered majors in German Studies. We continue to require at least three language courses taught in German at the 300 or 400 level, plus a capstone project treating German language sources. Like most of the other programs, we require four to five courses (including LG 250) in German language, literature, film, history, and/or culture. Meanwhile, with the introductory course XL 100, one to two WLL-wide “breadth” courses, and a capstone taken alongside students majoring in other languages and comparative literature, our German majors will continue to graduate with nearly a minor in world literature. We expect this intercultural grounding will be a great asset to them in graduate school applications, on the job market, and throughout their lives.

By comparison, for example:

- Wellesley College, whose German program we consider a “peer-plus,” requires only nine courses for a BA, and they count for the major the 211-212 equivalents that we treat as prerequisite. Two of the nine courses may be taught in English. Thus Wellesley majors graduate with five courses in German at the third-year level or above; our students will graduate with at least four.
Reed College, which we consider a “peer” program, offers two tracks in German: Literature and Culture Studies. Reed’s German Literature track requires eight courses including a thesis above the 212-equivalent level; majors also complete at least one semester or summer institute in Germany. Six of these are German literature courses, of which many seem to be conducted in English with optional readings in German. Reed’s German Culture Studies track requires ten courses above the 212 equivalent, of which three must be taught in German. BU’s revised major, with four required upper-level German courses and with offerings in both language and literature/culture, falls midway between their two majors in emphasis and, for students who study abroad, is equally linguistically intensive.

Bryn Mawr-and-Haverford, which we consider a “peer” program, has two majors, German and German Studies. Both require ten courses including the 111-212 equivalents, thus only six courses beyond what would be our prerequisites. With offerings in both language and literature/culture, our revised program falls midway between their two majors in emphasis.

Tufts, a German program in a similarly structured department, offers two majors, German Language and Literature and German Studies. GLL requires 10 courses including two language courses, seven German literature and culture courses above 211 (a minimum of 5 of these taught in German), and one approved course in a related field. German Studies requires five courses above the intermediate level taught in German plus five related courses from other departments.

9. How does the change affect other academic units and existing programs at the University?

The revised German requirements will make it easier to double major in, for instance, History, European Studies, and even the sciences or Engineering. Otherwise, we do not anticipate an effect on other departments.

10. How will you notify current students of the proposed changes and implement the requirements? How will you assure that current students are able to complete their programs under the requirements that were in place at the time of their matriculation?

The LG course offerings will remain unchanged, allowing current students to complete their major; and the new major can be easily served by the same LG course offerings, making for a smooth transition. The capstone seminar will first be offered in Fall 2018. Students will be notified by email, by flyer posting (for reaching potential students not yet in the major), and during academic advising. The Department website will be updated to promote and highlight all new majors in WLL, including German.
11. Please document any implications that the change has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

None

12. If the change includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member’s course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course:

No new courses required.

13. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

None.

14. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed change will have:

None.

15. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it should appear) related to the proposed change, including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, learning outcomes)[NOTE: this bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed]:

The major in German Language & Literature offers students the chance to become proficient in the German language and develop an in-depth critical understanding of German-language cultural life, past and present. The program also lets students explore the many overlaps and connections between the German and non-German-speaking worlds, from diasporic communities inside German-speaking countries to the broader context of Europe and beyond. Graduates are prepared to communicate effectively in German and English, to function well in cross-cultural contexts, and to contribute meaningfully to addressing today’s global challenges. This flexible 11-course program works well as a second major alongside a major such as history, IR, European Studies, or Engineering.
The BA in German Language & Literature is an excellent foundation for work in any intercultural field, for further study at the graduate level, and for practical translation work.

Like all WLL majors, German Language & Literature majors begin with XL100 Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature, a team-taught course in which students meet the WLL faculty through guest lectures and get oriented in the rich diversity of the world’s literary traditions. They start German language study as early as possible and complete at least three language courses above the fourth semester. A course taught in English translation, Masterpieces of German Literature (LG250), introduces students to major texts and can be taken early on in the student’s program. Four additional courses in German language, literature, linguistics, and/or culture provide greater depth in areas of special interest to the student. One elective focused on a language, literature, or culture other than German helps regional, global and/or historical comparison. Students wishing to explore more of WLL’s course offerings beyond German may substitute an additional elective for one of their four courses in German language, literature, or culture. Finally, German majors reconvene with all WLL majors in the senior capstone seminar XL 479, where they share the expertise they have gained and work with a faculty mentor on a final project using German language materials: a scholarly paper, a translation, a creative work, or other project at a similar level. All courses taught in German provide extensive opportunities for students to practice and further their proficiency in the full range of communication skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Courses taken abroad at BU Study Abroad Programs in Dresden can also count for the major.

Course Requirements

A total of 11 four-credit courses is required, all completed with a grade of C or higher.

- **XL 100 Explorations in World Literature: Leaving Home**
- **LG 250 Masterpieces of German Literature (in English translation)**
- **LG 350 Introduction to German Literature (in German)**
- **3 German language courses above LG 212:**
  - One course numbered LG 302–309
  - One course numbered LG 302-345
  - One course numbered LG 310-345 or LG 403-404
- **3 additional courses in German language, literature, linguistics and/or culture:**
- One course numbered LG 450-470 (German literature in German)
- Two additional courses numbered LG 251-289, 315, 387, or 400 or higher (German literature, film, linguistics, culture or advanced language).

- **1 WLL elective, chosen with approval of the advisor.** Chosen from all courses in WLL. May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101 and CAS CC 102, by LX250 Introduction to Linguistics or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Students wishing to do more comparative work may count an additional WLL elective in place of one of the four courses in German literature, film, linguistics, culture or advanced language.

- **XL 479 Senior Seminar,** with a paper or translation project that makes use of German-language sources.

**To graduate with honors,** students will maintain a GPA in the major of at least 3.4 and will take two additional courses above the 11 required for the major:

- one additional focus or breadth course.
- either XL 540 (translation seminar) or LG 401 or 402 (continuation of the thesis begun in the capstone seminar).

**The following questions relate to a change in the delivery format of an existing degree.**

16. For proposed changes to delivery format of existing programs, please provide an indication of non-standard scheduling for the proposed format:

   N/A

17. Please provide information on a marketing plan and partner for the proposed changed delivery format:

   N/A
18. If applicable, please provide a request for non-standard tuition rates for the proposed changed delivery format:

N/A

19. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured?

N/A