

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Creation of a 5-year BALAS/MA degree program in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

SPONSOR:

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures would like to create a 5-year combined BALAS/MA track. The 5-year BALAS/MA is based on the general requirements for the BALAS in Germanic Languages and Literature, and maintains all current requirements for the BALAS and MA. Only students pursuing concentrations in German (Modern German, Commercial Studies, Language Studies, and Language & Literature) within the BALAS in Germanic Languages and Literature can participate in the combined program.

JUSTIFICATION: Among our current undergraduate majors there exists a significant interest in pursuing graduate studies in German without necessarily, however, the intention to commit to the PhD. track. Since these students by the time they have received their Bachelors will already have taken several 400-level classes that are also attended by students studying for the MA (for instance GER 465, GER 470-473), they are relatively well-prepared for our MA program. The department would like to be able to offer these students the option to plan for and begin their graduate education while still an undergraduate, provided that they make their decision early (during the second or third year), and that they are in good standing.

The 5-year BALAS/MA also fits trends in recent research in Second Language Acquisition (SLA). Normally students of a foreign language experience two big leaps of progress in their foreign language skills--one occurs usually around semester six or seven and the other right about the time they are completing the BA. By staying on for two more semesters, these students benefit tremendously and leverage their language skills, cultural knowledge, and writing and argumentation skills by a quantum leap. This is attractive to the best and the brightest.

This program also serves the department well. We are aiming to build a robust MA program, increasing enrollments at the 400- and 500-levels. With having more MA students, many of whom will not continue on to the PhD, we are preparing students with comprehensive training who enter all kinds of NGO and other fields of employment. In the meanwhile we have robust graduate courses which also allows us to offer a comprehensive palette of courses while maintaining a select and responsibly grown PhD program.

In order to be admitted to the 5-year BALAS/ MA, students during their *second* undergraduate year will have to have finished GER 211 and 331, need to have a general **GPA of 3.0** and a German GPA of 3.0, and be required to write a short essay in German. In order to apply for the 5-year BALAS/ MA during their *third* undergraduate year, students will have to have finished GER 401 and 420, and also have a general **GPA of 3.0** and a German GPA of 3.0, and also will be required to write a short essay in German. The department will continue to monitor the GPA of students admitted to the BALAS/ MA into their third and fourth years and before formal admission to the Graduate College. Students will apply for admission to the Graduate College during the semester in which they are completing all degree requirements for the BALAS.

The decision about students' admission to the 5-year BALAS / MA in German will be made by the graduate admissions committee in conjunction with undergraduate and graduate advisers of the department. The Department will consider students in the fifth year of this program for departmental support as Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants, or for fellowships and scholarships.

In order for the 5-year BALAS / MA-track to be possible, some of the 400-level and 500-level courses taken during the fourth year beyond the requirements for the BALAS (maximum of 12 hours) will need to be counted toward the MA (see appendix for a typical time frame).

The BALAS and MS degrees will be awarded simultaneously. The BALAS will be completed when a student completes 120 hours and all requirements for the BALAS. This would generally occur during the end of the Fall term of the fourth year.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed **Additional staff are not needed to administer the proposed program since it consists of two established degree programs within the Germanic Languages and Literature Department. Courses for both degrees are taught on a regular basis and advising is already in place.**

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)
The Germanic Languages and Literature Department does not anticipate any large changes to class size due to the proposed program. Any increase in BALAS majors can be handled by the department. We anticipate that graduate courses may increase by one or two students, but this is a change we would welcome.


c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments : **The proposed program consists of courses within the Germanic Languages and Literature Department and will not affect other units.**

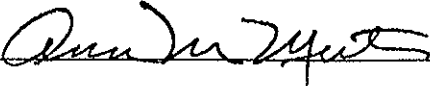
d. Impact on the University Library: **The proposed program consists of two established degree programs; therefore current library holdings are more than sufficient.**

e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: **The proposed program has no effect on computer or lab use.**

CLEARANCES:

Mara R. Wade Department / Unit

 School

 College

 1/21/09 Graduate College

_____ Provost

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: **Fall 2009**

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG [to be placed right before the minor]:

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures offers a 5-year program leading to two degrees, a BALAS in Germanic Languages and Literature and an MA in German. In order to be admitted to this program, students can apply during their second or third year of studies. Requirements for this program are identical to those for the BALAS and the MA in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

In order to be admitted to the 5-year BALAS / MA during their *second* year, students will need to be in good standing, have finished GER 211 and GER 331, have a general **GPA of 3.0** and a German GPA of 3.0, and be required to write a short essay in German.

In order to apply for the 5-year BALAS / MA during their *third* year, students will have to have finished GER 401 and GER 420, have a general **GPA of 3.0** and a German GPA of 3.0, and be required to write a short essay in German.

The department will continue to monitor the GPAs of students admitted to the BALAS / MA program into their third and fourth years and before formal admission to the Graduate College. The decision about students' admission to the 5-year program will be made by the graduate admissions committee in conjunction with undergraduate and graduate advisers of the department. The Department will consider students in the fifth year of this program for departmental support as Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants, or for fellowships and scholarships.

The minimum total number of hours required for graduation from the BALAS / MA program is 152. Up to 12 hours not required for the BALAS (120 hours) taken during the fourth year can be used to meet the requirements for the MA (32 hours). Students admitted to the program will receive both degrees once all requirements for the 5-Year BALAS /MA degree program have been successfully completed. More detailed information may be obtained from the departmental office.