UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Request for New Program

Originating unit requesting program: SPANISH & HISPANIC STUDIES

New Program title: SPANISH FOR THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS MINOR

I. By university policy all programs must have a Program Assessment Plan approved by the Director of Assessment. Please include a copy of the assessment plan for this program or a letter from the Director of Assessment verifying that the assessment plan has been approved.

Guidelines for preparation of a Program Assessment Plan are available from the Office of Assessment or at www.assessment.tcu.edu.

II. Need and comparisons:
Demonstrate the need for the program (surveys, professional data, area programs or lack thereof, student inquiries, programs at other universities).

See separate sheet.

III. Resources:

A. Explain how the unit will provide faculty support for this offering and any other impact this program will have on other current departmental listings, (e.g. change in teaching assignment, part-time faculty).

Program will require no new faculty. Existing faculty will teach any new course additions.

B. How will faculty support for this offering impact offerings for other units?

Faculty support for this offering will not affect other units.

C. Will additional resources be required?
(If yes, provide the appropriate information requested below). ☑ YES ☐ NO

Space:

Equipment:

Library:
The Department will boost library acquisitions in the new program area through its regular requisitions.
IV. Proposal items:
   A. Catalog copy for new program as it would appear in the Undergraduate Studies Bulletin.
      See separate sheet.

   B. New course proposals (see Undergraduate Council's form for new courses).
      SPAN 40003 - Advanced Spanish for the Health Professions.

   C. Changes in existing courses, if any.
      See Course Change form.

V. Letters of support from any affected units or programs:
   NA

VI. Effective date for proposed program (semester, year): Fall 2010

   Approval signature of chairperson of originating unit
Demonstration of Need for Spanish for the Health Professions

It has become advantageous for health care professionals in the United States to be bilingual, as they are increasingly expected to function in a cross-cultural environment. Over the past several years, The Harris College of Nursing department has experienced an increase in student requests for an opportunity to pursue a minor in Spanish. These requests are in response to demographic changes that have been occurring in the United States generally and in Tarrant and Dallas counties specifically. The state demographer of Texas suggests that the Hispanic population could reach majority status in Texas by as early as the year 2020. Such statistics are available at http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2008projections/2008_txpoppri_txtotnum.php. Consequently, the number of American universities that offer major and minor programs in medical Spanish have been steadily growing. Some examples are Illinois Wesleyan University (minor), University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire (minor), University of Colorado, Boulder (major), and Marquette University (minor).

A clear indication of TCU Nursing students’ interest in medical Spanish has been the popularity of SPAN 31503, Spanish for the Health Professions, which is often closed early for enrollment. Moreover, many Nursing students are unable to take this course because of scheduling difficulties caused by their off-campus clinical practicum. With the creation of the minor, an agreement has been reached between the departments of Nursing and Spanish and Hispanic Studies to accommodate the needs of the nursing students. Beginning Fall 2010, a select group of students in selected clinicals will alternate between morning and afternoon sessions on an annual basis, and some upper-level required and elective courses in Spanish will be scheduled in accordance with this arrangement. With this new level of flexibility, it is expected that many nursing students will enroll in the program. These special scheduling arrangements are possible only through an integrated program (not just individual offerings) that is geared toward a certain group of students (those of the medical professions).

Students in the Spanish for the Health Professions program will be offered special guidance that will benefit them in their selection of appropriate courses for their career. For instance, besides the specifically-designed courses for the health professions, these students will be advised also to take courses such as Service-learning in the Latino Community, a Latin American culture course, and a course in oral communication.

Rather than enrolling in the existing generic Spanish minor, an integrated program in the health professions gives the student a higher academic profile for professional purposes during a job search. Besides the benefits of a shared community of scholars and advisors, opportunities are
offered for international studies in Spanish designed specifically for students in the medical profession (two of these are recommended for TCU students).

It is also important to point out that not only will this minor be valuable to the College of Nursing but to other health professions programs as well. We anticipate that students in such programs as Nutrition, Social Work, Speech, Kinesiology, and Pre-med will benefit from this much-needed program.
Spanish for the Health Professions Minor

The minor in Spanish for the Health Professions is designed to provide students (especially those in Nursing) the ability to communicate in Spanish in the area of health care. The minor engages the student with the necessary mechanics of the language and propels him or her into two courses designed especially for students in the health professions. Opportunities are offered for electives to boost oral communication and knowledge of Spanish-speaking communities within the United States and beyond. Options are also available for off-campus service learning and study abroad.

Requirements

The minor in Spanish for the Health Professions consists of 21 credit hours, as follows:

- SPAN 20103 - Intermediate Spanish 1 or its equivalent
- SPAN 20203 - Intermediate Spanish 2 or its equivalent
- SPAN 31503 - Introduction to Spanish for the Health Professions
- SPAN 40003 - Advanced Spanish for the Health Professions
- 3 electives at the 30000 level or above

No course taught in English can be taken to fulfill the minor requirements.

The following electives are recommended for all minors:

SPAN 31103 Oral Communication in Spanish
SPAN 31803 Service-Learning in the Latino Community
SPAN 32103 Culture and Civilization of Latin America (or 32003-Spain)

Native and Heritage Speakers

Native and heritage speakers will not receive credit for Spanish 31103 (Oral Communication in Spanish); they should select SPAN 31203 or another course at the 30000 level and above. (A native speaker is considered to be someone whose primary and/or secondary education took place in a Spanish-speaking country. A heritage speaker is someone who was primarily educated in US schools but who speaks Spanish in the home and with friends and co-workers.)

Policy on Grades

Courses taken Pass/No-Credit and courses in which the student earns below a "C" will not count toward the minor.

Study Abroad

Study abroad is recommended for all minors of Spanish for the Health Professions. Besides the enormous improvement they will gain in their speaking ability, the international experience will enhance their career opportunities and cross-cultural competence. Up to 9 of the 21 required credits may be taken at an approved study-abroad site. In order to receive credit, the student must meet with advisors from the Harris College of Nursing and Health
Sciences, the Spanish & Hispanic Studies Department, and the Center for International Studies prior to departure to obtain approval for coursework abroad to transfer to TCU.
Dear Dr. Butler and Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to expand the discussion regarding the proposal of a new Spanish minor within AddRan College and the time to express the Harris College of Nursing perspective in greater detail.

From their fourth semester onward our students participate in an extended clinical day that begins at 6:30 in the morning and ends between 1:00 pm and possibly as late as 9:00 pm. This arrangement prevents the students from attending any classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as they spend two out of three days each week (with the exception of the senior I semester) in clinical learning. This situation remains true for the rest of their time at TCU. The proposed minor in Spanish for the Health Professions was readily met with Harris College’s support because it provides a package program, it is not just a course or two. The College of Nursing agreed to create a designated clinical group (or more than one if called for) that would remain intact through our nursing program so that together our two departments could schedule courses around the students’ time needs. This arrangement will draw students’ attention and interest because they know they will receive a packaged academic credit at the end of their studies: a minor in Spanish for the Health Professions, with an optional career-focused international experience.

We strongly support the proposed minor because it will satisfy a significant demand in Harris College; there is demand among our students to become proficient in Spanish in order to converse with their patients. In our geographic area as well as nationwide we see the growing number of Spanish-speaking patients in the hospitals and our students would like to graduate with the ability to communicate with them. Furthermore, we are concerned about students’ marketability. As a packaged program, with a study-abroad option, the minor in Spanish for the Health Professions will place our students ahead of others as they look for jobs. Not only will they be conversant in Spanish, because this minor is about being immersed in an academic system – a minor program – the student will receive special advising that guides them toward course selections that will support their preparation for their future career.

Thank you for considering the Spanish For The Health Professions minor. We think it will be a wonderful program, one that enhances the student experience at TCU and within the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Sincerely,
Kris Riddlesperger, RN, PhD     Nancy Moulton, RN, MSN