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Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Proficiency in Language and Culture

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Certificate

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

The Proficiency in Language and Culture Certificate consists of 15 credits: 4 courses (12 credits) at the first- and second-year level in the language of specialization, and 1 course (3 credits) relating to the culture or cultures associated with that language. Students who are native speakers of a language are not able to obtain a certificate in that language since they cannot take lower-level courses in that language for credit. Students would have the option to substitute an additional culture course for one of the language courses, an option which may be of interest to students who have done languages in high school and thus do not need to take all 12 credits from 100/101 onwards.

Program Outline

Year 1	Credits
CHIN 100 - (Intro to Chinese I) <i>or</i> , CHIN 103 - (Beginning Chinese for Heritage Students I)	3
CHIN 101 - (Intro to Chinese II) <i>or</i> , CHIN 104 - (Beginning Chinese for Heritage Students II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
CHIN 200 - (Intermediate Chinese Language I)	3
CHIN 201 - (Intermediate Chinese Language II)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following: ASIA 230 - (Introduction to Asian Cultures) CHIN 212 - (Modern Chinese Culture and Communications) LANG 390* - (Internship)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

* *Note: LANG 390 must have prior permission of the program coordinator.*

Japanese Concentration

Year 1	Credits
JAPA 100 - (Basic Japanese I)	3
JAPA 101 - (Basic Japanese II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
JAPA 200 - (Intermediate Japanese I)	3
JAPA 201 - (Intermediate Japanese II)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following: ASIA 230 - (Introduction to Asian Cultures) LANG 390* - (Internship)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

** Note: LANG 390 must have prior permission of the program coordinator.*

Spanish Concentration

Year 1	Credits
SPAN 100 - (Beginning Spanish I)	3
SPAN 101 - (Beginning Spanish II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
SPAN 200 - (Intermediate Spanish I)	3
SPAN 201 - (Intermediate Spanish II)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following: SPAN 230 - (Introduction to Hispanic Culture and Literature) <i>or</i> , SPAN 260 - (Evolution of Spanish Cinema - Almodovar and the Eighties) <i>or</i> , SPAN 310 - (Spanish Culture to 1500) <i>or</i> , SPAN 311 - (Spanish Culture from 1500 to the Present) LANG 390* - (Internship)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

** Note: LANG 390 must have prior permission of the program coordinator.*

French Concentration (for students who have no background in French)

Year 1	Credits
FRCH 100 - (Beginning French I)	3
FRCH 101 - (Beginning French II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
FRCH 121 - (Intermediate French I)	3
FRCH 122 - (Intermediate French II)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following: FRCH 230 - (Introduction to Francophone Culture and Literature) LANG 390* - (Internship)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

** Note: LANG 390 must have prior permission of the program coordinator.*

French Concentration (for students who have completed high-school French)

Year 1	Credits
FRCH 121 - (Intermediate French I)	3
FRCH 122 - (Intermediate French II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
FRCH 221 - (French Oral and Written Practice I)	3
FRCH 222 - (French Oral and Written Practice II)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following: FRCH 230 - (Introduction to Francophone Culture and Literature) LANG 390* - (Internship)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

** Note: LANG 390 must have prior permission of the program coordinator.*

Note: *These students would also fulfill the recommendation for French competency from the Faculty of Education for Elementary teachers*

Hul'q'umi'num Concentration

Year 1	Credits
INDG 110 - (Coast Salish Language: Hul'q'umi'num' I)	3
INDG 111 - (Coast Salish Language: Hul'q'umi'num' II)	3
Year 1 Total	6

Year 2	Credits
INDG 210 - (Coast Salish Language: Hul'q'umi'num' III)	3
INDG 211 - (Coast Salish Language: Hul'q'umi'num' IV)	3
*Select <i>one</i> of the following: HHS 263 - (Elder Teachings Across Disciplines I) HHS 264 - (Elder Teachings Across Disciplines II)	3
Year 2 Total	9
Total Credits	15

**Other VIU courses with an Indigenous cultural focus will be considered. Please consult with the Indigenous/Xmulmuxw Studies Department Chair.*

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.

Notes on Admission

- All students must be aware that courses in the program may have course prerequisites beyond the program's admission requirements
- Prior Learning Assessment opportunities: First- and second-year language courses are assessed primarily through the challenge format. The option of the Challenge examination is available for students wishing to "challenge" a Language course when they feel that they have the necessary proficiency in it, equivalent to the requirements of the course challenged. The Challenge exam will have the following parts:
 - Written (grammar and vocabulary testing)

- Oral expression and comprehension
- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension and composition
- The Challenge exam is NOT available for students whose mother tongue is the same as the language that they wish to challenge
- Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.
- New students will be placed in language courses according to ability, experience, and previous education. There are no special admission requirements for the program beyond those for the individual courses involved in a student's program of study, and the general admission requirements of the institution. As mentioned above, those students who are native speakers of a language would not be able to obtain a certificate in that language, since they cannot take lower-level courses in that language for credit.

Transfer from other Institutions

Individual courses can be transferred from other institutions as per the BCCAT guidelines. There are no block transfer agreements in place.

Program Regulations

Students must obtain a minimum "C+" average in all required first- and second-year courses to receive the Certificate.

Career Opportunities

There is an identified need for people with second language skills in a wide variety of employment areas such as primary and secondary education, research, business, tourism, fisheries, forestry and other federal government services. The Certificate option targets students who are not able to complete a Minor but wish to obtain a recognized language credential.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications for admission are accepted anytime between the first business day in October, and March 31. Applications received after March 31 are considered late and will be processed as space permits.

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