

**Master of Art (M.A.) in Spanish  
Faculty Senate Program Closure Recommendation**

The M.A. in Spanish is a 30-credit hour program within the Department of Classical and Modern Languages in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). The program has experienced low and declining enrollment for the past five academic years. The Spanish faculty in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages believe many factors contributed to the declining enrollment, most notably changes to Kentucky secondary teacher certification requirements (i.e., the commonwealth no longer requires secondary teachers to obtain a master's degree). Based upon the low and declining enrollment and the expressed student interest to further develop interdisciplinary academic programs at the undergraduate level, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages faculty have voted to suspend the program effective for the Summer 2023 term. (Note: The earliest the program suspension can take place is Fall 2023 to afford adequate time for UofL institutional approval processes.)

The proposed closure of the M.A. in Spanish attained the following approvals:

- Departmental Faculty Level Approval:
  - Spanish faculty voted to suspend the program on January 13, 2023.
  - The Department of Classical and Modern Languages voted to suspend the program on February 3, 2023.
- Academic-Unit Level Approval:
  - A&S Faculty Assembly approved the suspension on March 31, 2023.

**I. Enrollment and Degree Conferrals**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Enrollment<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Degree Conferrals</b>
2017-2018	19	7
2018-2019	19	10
2019-2020	10	10
2020-2021	8	2
2021-2022	5	1
2022-2023	6	N/A

<sup>1</sup> The fall term is UofL's official reporting semester for enrollment data.

**II. Students:**

All students currently enrolled in the M.A. in Spanish program are graduating by May 2023 except for one student. The remaining student will have twelve (12) credits to complete. Three (3) credits are the directed study project (SPAN 668), and the Spanish faculty have identified advanced undergraduate courses (500-level) and Metroversity courses that can satisfy the remaining nine (9) credits.

### **III. Notification of Faculty & Staff**

The affected faculty are aware of the program suspension, as they initially approved it on January 13, 2023, and all faculty within the unit were notified through the Faculty Assembly on March 31, 2023. Once the program is officially closed with SACSCOC, the Vice Provost/SACSCOC Liaison will notify all relevant parties (e.g., registrar, graduate school, advisers, academic deans, etc.) of the program suspension, and the academic catalog will be updated to reflect the program suspension. For the 2023-2024 Graduate Academic Catalog, the following statement will be added to the program description: "Beginning Fall 2023, the Master of Arts in Spanish is not accepting applications for admission."

Full-time faculty will continue to maintain their same teaching load, including offering a reduced roster of 500-level courses to accommodate advanced undergraduate students as well as graduate students from other academic programs. Furthermore, the faculty will continue to offer the same slate of undergraduate courses, which comprised 96.6% of credit hours offered during the 2022-2023 academic year (i.e., 428 credit-hours offered at the 500-level or lower, and 15 credit hours offered at the 600-level including directed studies). So, while all 600-level courses in Spanish will be retired beginning Fall 2023, the impact will be minimal.

### **IV. Student Communication Plan**

The student who will continue to be enrolled after the Spring 2023 semester has been notified of the need to complete the program through alternative coursework covering the same learning content. The faculty will assist the student with identifying coursework through cross-listed advanced undergraduate courses and Metroversity courses to complete the degree requirements. The student will have until May 2024 (i.e., the end of the spring semester) to complete the program. As previously mentioned, the 2023-2024 academic catalog will have a note indicating the program is no longer accepting applicants beginning with the Fall 2023 semester, and it will be removed from the 2024-2025 Graduate Academic Catalog entirely. While the department does not anticipate any students applying for admission during the Summer 2023 semester, if the department admits any students prior to the Fall 2023 semester, those students will have until Spring 2025 to complete the degree with independent studies, Metroversity courses, and cross-listed graduate courses being used to complete the required coursework at the 600-level. (Note: The required 500-level courses will still be offered for advanced undergraduate students and graduate students from other academic programs.)

### **V. Effective Date**

The last term students will be admitted to the M.A. in Spanish program is the Summer 2023 semester. (Note: no students have applied for admission at the time of submission.) The program will be closed to subsequent enrollment effective for the Fall 2023 term (August 21, 2023).