

University-Wide Foreign Language Requirement For the MA Degree

Proposals:

- eliminate the university-wide foreign language requirement for the MA degree, allowing each program to set its own language requirements (including none)
- effective for Fall 2023 for newly admitted students
- allow programs to apply the new policy to currently enrolled or returning MA students without requiring a Bulletin change for them

Current Policy

From the 2022-2023 Graduate Bulletin

https://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/information/graduate_degree/

Master's Degree Programs

[...]

Requirements at the Master's Level

[...]

Language Requirements

There is no University-wide foreign language requirement for the master's degree, except for the Master of Arts (MA) degree. Each department sets its own language requirements.

[...]

Additional Master of Arts (MA) Requirements

In addition to the requirements listed above, candidates for the Master of Arts (MA) degree must meet the following requirements:

- Proficiency in a foreign language demonstrated by certification by the appropriate language department, or completion of twelve semester hours in a foreign language with an average grade of at least 3.0 ("B"), or four years of a single language in high school.
- Six or more semester hours of graduate credit in one or more of the following fields: art; classical language, literature, and civilization; communication (not to include speech correction); English; history; humanities; modern languages and linguistics; music; philosophy; religion; and theatre.

(Also: https://registrar.fsu.edu/archive/bulletin/graduate/2022_grad_bulletin.pdf p. 100 & 102)

Proposed Changes

Language Requirements

There is no University-wide foreign language requirement for the master's degree, ~~except for the Master of Arts (MA) degree~~. Each department, school, or college for units where there are no departments, sets its own language requirements based on the degree awarded.

[...]

Additional Master of Arts (MA) Requirements

In addition to the requirements listed above, candidates for the Master of Arts (MA) degree must meet the following requirements:

- Six or more semester hours of graduate credit in one or more of the following fields: art; classical language, literature, and civilization; communication (not to include speech correction); English; history; humanities; modern languages and linguistics; music; philosophy; religion; and theatre.
- Degree requirements that include Pproficiency in a foreign language may be satisfied by demonstrated by certification by the appropriate language department, or completion of twelve a specified number of high school or college semester hours in a foreign language. with an average grade of at least 3.0 All courses must earn a minimum grade of 3.0 ("B") or better, as set by individual programs. , or four years of a single language in high school.

“Clean” Language With Proposed Changes

Language Requirements

There is no University-wide foreign language requirement for the master's degree. Each department, school, or college for units where there are no departments, sets its own language requirements based on the degree awarded.

[...]

Additional Master of Arts (MA) Requirements

In addition to the requirements listed above, candidates for the Master of Arts (MA) degree must meet the following requirements:

- Six or more semester hours of graduate credit in one or more of the following fields: art; classical language, literature, and civilization; communication (not to include speech correction); English; history; humanities; modern languages and linguistics; music; philosophy; religion; and theatre.
- Degree requirements that include proficiency in a foreign language may be satisfied by demonstrated certification by the appropriate language department, or completion of a specified number of high school or college semester hours in a foreign

language, as set by individual programs. All courses must earn a minimum grade of "B" or better.

Excerpts from the College of Music Proposal:

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY | *The COLLEGE of MUSIC*



FROM: Dr. Evan A. Jones, College of Music Curriculum Committee chair
 TO: Dr. Ulla Bunz, Graduate Policy Committee chair
 DATE: January 30, 2023
 RE: Foreign Language Requirement for all M.A. degrees

On behalf of Dr. Todd Queen (Dean, College of Music), Dr. Marcía Porter (Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Interim Director of Graduate Studies, College of Music), and my colleague Dr. Karen Munnelly (Director of the Graduate Arts Administration Program, College of Music), I am writing in support of proposed changes to FSU's policies on M.A. degree programs that have been drafted by FSU's registrar, Dr. Kimberly Barber. James Beck has also indicated that he is in support of the proposed changes.

Dean Queen then reached out to Deans Huckaba (Arts and Sciences), Frazier (Fine Arts), and Andrew (Education); he reports that all three of them expressed support for removing the foreign language requirement from FSU's M.A. degree on a university-wide basis.

From: Michael Thrasher <mthrasher@fsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022, 3:03 PM
To: James Beck <jpbbeck@fsu.edu>
Cc: Karen Munnelly <kmunnelly@fsu.edu>

Hi James,

Dr. Munnelly has taken the initiative to do a survey of peer programs across the country. Using resources like the Association of Arts Administration Educators, she has determined that almost no comparable programs have foreign language requirements (see below). This suggests that our program might be at a disadvantage when recruiting students.

(see next page for results)

Below is a list of all the R1 public universities with graduate arts administration programs who are members of the Association of Arts Administration Educators. The schools in green responded to my survey and confirmed that there is no requirement. The ones not highlighted in green did not respond, but I looked at the degree plans online.

School	Degree Type	Foreign Language Required
Arizona State University	MA	No
Colorado State University	MA	No
Eastern Michigan University	MA	No
George Mason University	MA	No
Indiana University	MA	No
Michigan State University	MA	No
Ohio State University	MA	No
Ohio University	MA	No
University at Buffalo SUNY	MA	No
University of Akron	MA	No
University of Alabama	MFA/MBA	No
University of Cincinnati	MA/MBA	No
University of Connecticut	MFA	No
University of Houston	MA	No
University of Kentucky	MA	No
University of Minnesota	MPS	No
University of New Orleans	MA	No
University of Wisconsin Madison	MA/MBA	No
Virginia Tech	MFA	No
Wayne State University	MA	No

These are additional programs who responded to the AAAE survey that are not public R1s.

School	Degree Type	Foreign Language Required
Baruch College	MA	No
Carnegie Mellon University	MA	No
Claremont University	MA	No
DePaul University	MFA	No
Drexel University	MS	No
Kutztown University	MA	No
Le Moyne College	MS	No
Northwestern University	MS	No
Pace University	MS	No
Rowan University	MA	No
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	MA	No
Seattle University	MFA	No
Southern Methodist University	MA/MBA	No
Southern Utah University	MA/MFA	No
SUNY- FIT	MA	No
Winthrop	MA	No

Additional Research by GPC Chair, Top 35 Public Universities:

	Rankings from https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public	
	Foreign Language Requirement for MA Degree	
Ranking	University	university wide requirement
1	University of California, Berkeley	no
1	University of California, Los Angeles	no
3	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	no
3	University of Virginia	no
5	University of Florida	no
5	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	no
7	University of California, Santa Barbara	no
8	University of California, Irvine	no
8	University of California, San Diego	no
10	University of California, Davis	no
10	University of Texas, Austin	no
10	University of Wisconsin, Madison	no
13	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	unclear
13	William & Mary	no
15	Georgia Institute of Technology	no
16	The Ohio State University	no
16	University of Georgia	no
18	Purdue University, West Lafayette	no
19	Florida State University	yes
19	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	could not be determined
19	University of Maryland, College Park	no
19	University of Washington	no
23	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	no
23	University of Pittsburgh	no
23	Virginia Tech	no
26	Texas A&M University	no
26	University of Connecticut	no
26	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	no
29	Indiana University, Bloomington	no
29	North Carolina State University	no
31	Clemson University	no
31	Michigan State University	no
31	Stony Brook University, SUNY	no
31	The Pennsylvania State University	no
35	Binghamton University, SUNY	no
35	University of California, Santa Cruz	no
35	University of Iowa	could not be determined

Public universities: $20 + 35 - 5 \text{ (overlap)} - 3 \text{ (no data)} = 47$

Private universities: 16

FSU is the only university out of 63 researched universities, and the only one determined in the Top 35 Public Universities, with a university-wide foreign language requirement for the MA.