

## MEMORANDUM

FROM: Didier Bertrand, Director of the Program in French (bertrand@iupui.edu)  
Department of World Languages & Cultures, IUPUI

TO: Curriculum Committee  
School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI

DATE: October 11, 2008 (Revised: January 14, 2009)

RE: Change in the French Major

### BACKGROUND

Currently, the Program in French has three courses in the SLA Bulletin that give credit to students who elect to study in France, typically over the summer. These courses are numbered F296, F396, and F496 and are all called "Foreign Study in France" for 1 to 6 credit hours, depending on the program the student chooses.

However, these courses do not count for credit toward the major in French, as the description below indicates:

**F296/F396/F496 Foreign Study in France (1-6 cr.)** P: acceptance in an overseas study program. Credit for foreign study in French language or literature when no specific equivalent is available among departmental offerings. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours. **Does not count towards the major.** (Emphasis added)

### REQUEST FOR CHANGE

The faculty in French is hereby making two requests:

1. We would like to leave the description of F296 as is, but also to amend the current description for F396 and F496 by striking the last sentence, "Does not count towards the major." The French Program would count these courses as electives. F296 is *not* eligible, as our electives are always at the 300 and 400-level.
2. Further, we would like to rename all three courses (F296, F396, and F496) "Study of French Abroad."

### RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Studying abroad in a French or Francophone university and experiencing French or Francophone cultures firsthand are essential to understand the French language and cultures. The faculty in French highly encourages its students to study abroad. Not counting these courses in the major penalizes students who are willing to put the time, money, and effort into the experiential study of their culture(s) of choice.
2. Due to the proliferation of overseas study programs at IU and to the upcoming proposal for a *Minor in Francophone Studies* at IUPUI, IU-sponsored language programs in Francophone countries should also be eligible for consideration in the major. We already send students to Laval University (Quebec) and give them credit for "Foreign Study in France," for want of a better name. IU holds a program in Dakar (Senegal) for the study of Wolof, but students registered in the future *Minor in Francophone Studies* may well elect to study French at the *Institut de Français pour Étudiants Étrangers* at the same institution. Renaming these three courses "Study of French Abroad" would simply reflect the new reality of study abroad at IUPUI in French.