

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Graduate Certificate in Translation Studies (File Name: 2015-03-proposal-v1-gc-translation-studies.docs)

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

This program proposes to offer an 18 credit graduate certificate in Translation Studies to prepare a cadre of highly qualified translators for private and public sectors as well as for advanced graduate studies. The program is unique in that it serves international and interdisciplinary needs across numerous academic and professional fields. The curriculum is intended to provide students with advanced linguistic and cultural knowledge that prepares them to deal with a variety of professional texts from multiple disciplines, with different discourse demands and nuanced audience purposes, and ethical implications. Spanish, French, and German are currently the focus of this program; however, there is flexibility to add languages as well in the future.

2. Is the program academically sound?

The 18 credits of course work described meets the professional expectations for advanced linguistic development needed for translators. Nine of the credits are required of all students, consisting of an introductory course to translations studies, a computer-assisted translation and localization course, and a culminating field experience where students apply their language-specific translation skills by completing an internship or project. The remaining nine credits are language-specific, with each track sharing common threads: comparative stylistics, sociolinguistics, and discipline specific options for specialized translation. Students have the option to specialize in either business/legal/governmental or scientific/technical/medical translation. These language-specific strands are consistent across languages and coherent as a program with the introductory and culminating course requirements. Each course in the program is already an approved course. The intentional effort to incorporate service learning opportunities for translation into their program also provides students with a range of professional and academic experiences during their studies.

The courses are also designed flexibly to accommodate native and non-native speakers of English. Decisions about admissions are appropriately based on numerous types of evidence, including grade point averages, standardized language exams, a narrative, letters of recommendation, as well as a sample translation. These requirements ensure the advanced English and second language proficiency required for translators.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

The translation studies certificate appears to bolster the unit's mission. The program overlaps the most with course requirements for Spanish master's degree students, making the addition of a translation certificate to their credentials easy. While the overlap does not exist to the same degree for French and German, the translation studies certificate would still attract some students to pursue the additional credits, enhancing enrollments.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

The IUPUI Translation Studies certificate, with its professional and academic focus, offers IU students something unique from existing programs. It is possible that IU Bloomington students in Comparative Literature or Literacy Translations may be attracted to the IUPUI option, with its clear focus on professional and applied translation. Students at other IU campuses who major in World Languages may elect to pursue the certificate as an additional credential to make themselves more employable with options beyond academia.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

- Change the proposed date of implementation from August 2013 to future date on page 1 and also on page 5.
- I recommend approving the Graduate Translation Studies Certificate. It adds a new, international, and interdisciplinary emphasis on translation to the unit's existing programs. It has the potential to attract new graduate students locally and nationally. Furthermore, it meets a growing need for translators in the private and public sector. As described, the certificate program in Translation Studies is coherent and the quality of faculty supporting program ensure its rigor.