

Rochester INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Minor Program proposal form

College of Liberal Arts  
– in PARTNERSHIP WITH NTID

**Co-administered by   
*Department of English* and *Department of Modern Languages and Cultures***

**Name of Minor:** ***Language Science***

**Brief description of the minor to be used in university publications**

|  |
| --- |
| The Language Science minor prepares students in the interdisciplinary scientific study and analysis of human language. The minor is directly applicable to students interested in computing and media, human-computer interaction, brain and cognition, language acquisition, human health, interpreting, relevant branches of engineering, and policy studies. Students can complete the minor requirements irrespective of their skills in languages other than English. Some courses in the minor cover core linguistic principles, technology of language, psychology of language, and language in culture and society. Electives allow students to customize the minor to their interests and needs, with the support of a faculty advisor. The minor is an excellent complement to a major such as computer science, game design, information technology, psychology, sign language interpreting, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, bioengineering, science, or a foreign language. |

**1.0 Minor Program Approvals**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approval request date: | Approval granted date: |
| Academic Unit Curriculum Committee | 10/23/2015 | 10/28/2015 |
| College Curriculum Committee | 11/05/2015 | 11/11/2015 |
| Inter-College Curriculum Committee |  |  |

**2.0 Rationale:**

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript

How is this set of academic courses related?

|  |
| --- |
| The courses prepare students in the interdisciplinary scientific study and analysis of human language. Language use is manifested in multiple modalities, and its systemic study presents opportunities to explore fundamental topics of the Liberal Arts, including identity, intercultural communication, minority populations, diversity, and global skills. |

**3.0 Multidisciplinary involvement:**

If this is a multidisciplinary minor spanning two or more academic units, list the units and their role in offering and managing this minor.

|  |
| --- |
| The Language Science minor is co-administered by the Department of English and the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts. Most courses are offered in these departments, and the departments have a track record of successful collaboration. The departments share responsibilities for resolving issues involving:   * Minor enrollment, minor removal, and the minor completion process * Transfer credits toward the minor requirements * Minor completion recording in transcripts will be done by the College of Liberal Arts   The following departments offer courses that form part of the Language Science minor:   * Department of English/COLA * Department of Modern Languages and Cultures/COLA * Department of Sociology and Anthropology/COLA * Department of Psychology/COLA * Department of Philosophy/COLA   Faculty members in the following departments also teach Language Science minor courses:   * Department of Cultural and Creative Studies/NTID * Department of Liberal Studies/NTID   Faculty from COLA and NTID form a *Language Science Steering Committee* that meets at least twice each year. The steering committee makes decisions based on consensus. Their charge is:   * Monitor the interdisciplinary implementation of the minor * Recommend approval of special topic or independent study credit * Help to plan and communicate campus events relevant to Language Science   Two members from the *Language Science Steering Committee,* one each from the Departments of English and Modern Languages and Cultures, will be chosen as the *Language Science Program Co-Directors*. Their charge is:   * Serve as a day-to-day point of contact for the minor. Either of the Co-Directors will be individually eligible to perform the administrative capacities and make approvals that involve daily operations of the minor. (For example, an approval by one Co-Director will be sufficient if a student places a request to have a course accredited toward the minor.) * The minor will be certified by the College of Liberal Arts. * Present reports twice each year to the steering committee about student enrollment, the effective scheduling of courses, relevant undergraduate research experiences, co-op opportunities, events, and similar activities.   **Contact information for current members of the steering committee**  Chair Sharon Beckford-Foster, Dept. of English, smbgsl@rit.edu  Chair Hiroko Yamashita, Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultures, hxygsl@rit.edu  Chair Joseph Bochner, Dept. of Cultural and Creative Studies, jhbncp@ntid.rit.edu  Dr. Gerald P. Berent, Dept. of Liberal Studies, gpbnci@rit.edu  Dr. Cecilia Ovesdotter Alm, Dept. of English, coagla@rit.edu  Dr. Wilson Silva, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, wdsgss@rit.edu |

**4.0 Students ineligible to pursue this minor:**

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student’s major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student’s major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area.   It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit’s curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

Please list below any home programs whose students will not be allowed to pursue this minor, provide the reasoning, and indicate if this exclusion has been discussed with the affected programs:

|  |
| --- |
| Through this minor partnership, matriculated students majoring in all undergraduate baccalaureate programs at RIT will be eligible to complete a minor in Language Science. Because the minor is interdisciplinary, **no RIT student will be ineligible**. Students can complete the minor requirements irrespective of their skills in languages other than English, and the minor is flexible enough so that students can focus on specific areas of interest, such as *language in culture and society* or the *psychology of language.* |

**5.0 Minor Program Structure, Sequence and Course Offering Schedule:**

Describe the structure of the proposed minor and list all courses, their anticipated offering schedule, and any prerequisites.

* All minors must contain at least fifteen semester credit hours;
* Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
* In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses (300 or above) to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor;
* As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree;
* Provide a program mask showing how students will complete the minor.

Narrative of Minor Program Structure:

|  |
| --- |
| To complete the minor, a student takes fifteen semester credit hours (sch) distributed over five courses as follows:  **Required core course (3 sch)** ENGL-310 Introduction to Language Science  **Foundations course: one course in a foundation area is required (3 sch)**  ANTH-220 Language and Culture  ENGL-351 Language Technology  MLCU-301 Psycholinguistics  **Elective courses: any three of these courses are required (9 sch)**  A beginning ASL or foreign language course  ANTH-220 Language and Culture  ANTH-285 American Indian Languages  ANTH-290 Language, Sex, and Sexuality  ANTH-305 Investigating Language Change  MLCU-301 Psycholinguistics  MLST-499 Special Topics: Modern Language (for linguistics topics such as *Introduction to Syntax* or *Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism*) ENGL-351 Language Technology  ENGL-470 Evolving English Language  ENGL-481 Introduction to Natural Language Processing  ENGL-482 Science and Analytics of Speech  ENGL-582 Advanced Topics in Computational Linguistics  ENGL-584 Spoken Language Processing  PHIL-414 Philosophy of Language  PSYC-331 Language and Thought  MLAS-596 Linguistics of American Sign Language  MLJP-351 Languages in Japanese Society  MLJP-451 Structure of the Japanese Language  Special Topic or Independent Study if approved by the steering committee  The core course and the foundations courses are not prerequisites for the elective courses unless an instructor declares a prerequisite for a particular course. In addition, there are two requirements: (1) at least two of the five courses must be at the 300-level or higher, and (2) nine sch must be taken outside the student’s major. Students will complete this minor also in compliance with any other institutional parameters for minors. Details about courses’ prerequisites and offerings are in the table below. As the table shows, courses will be offered under their respective department’s course number, following the interdisciplinary model of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program (<http://www.rit.edu/cla/womensstudies/curriculum.html>). Students can complete the minor by adding two courses to a completed **immersion** in Language Science.  NTID faculty will be directly involved in this minor, for example in the teaching of MLAS-596 *Linguistics of American Sign Language* and a special topics course on *Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism.* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course Number & Title | SCH | Required | Optional | Fall | Spring | Annual/Biennial | Prerequisites |
| ENGL-310 Introduction to Language Science | 3 | X |  | X |  | A |  |
| Choose one of the following 3 courses: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ENGL-351 Language Technology | 3 |  | X |  | X | A |  |
| MLCU-301 Psycholinguistics | 3 |  | X |  | X | A |  |
| ANTH-220 Language and Culture | 3 |  | X | X |  | A |  |
| Choose 3 of the following courses (ENGL 351, MLCU 301, ANTH 220 are also eligible): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ANTH-285 American Indian Languages | 3 |  | X |  | X | B |  |
| ANTH-290 Language, Sex, and Sexuality | 3 |  | X |  | X | B |  |
| ANTH-305  Investigating Language Change | 3 |  | X |  | X | B |  |
| ENGL-470 Evolving English Language | 3 |  | X | X |  | A |  |
| ENGL-481 Introduction to Natural Language |  |  |  |  |  |  | ENGL-351 or any programming course |
| ENGL-482 Science and Analytics of Speech | 3 |  | X | X |  | B |  |
| ENGL-582 Advanced Topics in Computational Linguistics | 3 |  | X |  | X | B | ENGL 481 Introduction to Natural LanguageProcessing or instructor’s consent |
| ENGL-584 Spoken Language Processing | 3 |  | X | X |  | B |  |
| PHIL-414 Philosophy of Language | 3 |  | X | X |  | B | One course in philosophy, or instructor’s consent |
| PSYC-331 Language and Thought | 3 |  | X |  | X | B | PSYC-223-Cognitive Psychology, PSYC-251-Research Methods II |
| MLST-499 Special Topics: Modern Language (for linguistics topics such as *Introduction to Syntax* or *Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism*) | 3 |  | X | X |  | B |  |
| MLAS-351 Linguistics of American Sign Language | 3 |  | X |  | X | A | MLAS-202 Beginning ASL II, or fluency in ASL |
| MLJP-351 Languages in Japanese Society | 3 |  | X |  | X | B | MLJP-201 Beginning Japanese I |
| MLJP-451 Structure of the Japanese Language | 3 |  | X | X |  | B | MLJP-201 Beginning Japanese I |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total credit hours: | 15 sch (3 for the required core course, 3 for the foundations course, and 9 for the elective courses) |

Policy Name: **D1.1 MINORS POLICY**

 1. Definition

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript.

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student’s major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student’s major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area.   It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit’s curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor.

2. Institutional parameters

1. Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
2. Only matriculated students may enroll in a minor;
3. At least nine semester credit hours of the minor must consist of courses not required by the student's home program;
4. Students may pursue multiple minors.  A minimum of nine semester credit hours must be designated towards each minor; these courses may not be counted towards other minors;
5. The residency requirement for a minor is a minimum of nine semester credit hours consisting of RIT courses (excluding "X" graded courses);
6. Posting of the minor on the student's academic transcript requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in each of the minor courses;
7. Minors may not be added to the student's academic record after the granting of the bachelor's degree.

3. Development/approval/administration processes

* 1. Minors may be developed by faculty at the departmental, inter-departmental, college, or inter-college level. As part of the minor development process:
     1. students ineligible for the proposed minor will be identified;
     2. prerequisites, if any, will be identified;
  2. Minor proposals must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee, and college curriculum committee(s), before being sent to the Inter-College Curriculum Committee (ICC) for final consideration and approval.
  3. The academic unit offering the minor (in the case of interdisciplinary minors, the designated college/department) is responsible for the following:
     1. enrolling students in the minor (as space permits);
     2. monitoring students progress toward completion of the minor;
     3. authorizing the recording of the minor's completion on student's academic records;
     4. granting of transfer credit, credit by exam, credit by experience, course substitutions, and advanced placement;
     5. responding to student requests for removal from the minor.
  4. As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree.

4. Procedures for Minor revision

It is the duty of the college curriculum committee(s) involved with a minor to maintain the program’s structure and coherence.  Once a minor is approved by the ICC, changes to the minor that do not have a significant effect on its focus may be completed with the approval of the involved academic unit(s) and the college curriculum committee(s).  Significant changes in the focus of the minor must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee(s), the college curriculum committee(s) and be resubmitted to the ICC for final consideration and approval.