

Certificate of Language and Intercultural Communication approved by Faculty Senate

By: Elana Margosis

The new Certificate of Language and Intercultural Communication was approved on February 24, 2016, by the Faculty Senate. All undergraduate students are now eligible to pursue the Certificate through the Center for Language and Intercultural Communication.

The Certificate was created to encourage undergraduate students to acquire second-language skills and develop critical thinking skills related to intercultural communication, the often unwritten rules of language that vary by culture, according to CLIC director Rafael Salaberry, who hailed the Certificate as a redefinition of language proficiency. The focus of the Certificate, Salaberry said, is not to take the place of a major or minor, but rather to develop cultural and communicative skills.

In a report sent to the Faculty Senate and the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, CLIC emphasized the importance of learning how to interact in a given culture, in addition to learning the linguistic components of a language.

"The Certificate of Language and Intercultural Communication offers new language and cultural opportunities for Rice students, with an emphasis on real-world experiences, such as through experiential learning. Additionally, it gives students more opportunities to be exposed to upper-level classes in different language departments, such as the Department of Classical and European Studies." - Spencer Seballos (Brown '16), member of the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum

CLIC noted that over 96 percent of Rice students graduating in 2015 were not language majors. The Center said that earning the Certificate would complement their majors and demonstrate second-language knowledge to potential employers. The report also cited demand for multilingual graduates and the benefits of second language abilities in the workforce.

| Certificate Requirements | | |
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| Course Requirements | Experiential Learning | Outcomes Assessment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two 200 Level Courses• Two 300 Level Courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study Abroad with a Rice Faculty Led Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete an Oral Assessment• 500 Word Essay |

"The ambitious objective is that we're looking at two years of instruction and some third year level courses. We aren't requiring fourth year courses," Salaberry said.

"We're expanding the definition of language by bringing in intercultural communication and experiential learning. It's really an ambitious redefinition of what language competence is." - Rafael Salaberry



Dr. Turi discusses the certificate requirement with students in her class

Students must fulfill course requirements, experiential learning, and an assessment to earn the Certificate. Students must take two courses taught in the target language at or above the 200 level and two courses taught in the target language at the 300 level. Certificate-seeking students must also take at least one course through a Rice faculty-led study abroad program, or a similar program if no course is available. In order to receive the Certificate, students must complete an oral and written exam to ascertain the student's level of competence.

“Our certificate is unique in that it requires much more than just coursework. We want students to make meaningful connections between their academic goals and real world experience.” - Luziris Turi



Rice students participated in experiential learning at a senior citizens' home in Aix-en-Provence, France

Students interested in pursuing the Certificate in Language and Intercultural Communications in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, or Russian should contact Dr. Meng Yeh at myeh@rice.edu. Those interested in the Certificate in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish should contact Dr. Luziris Pineda Turi at lpaturi@rice.edu.

More information about the Certificate of Language and Intercultural Communication is available at clic.rice.edu/Certificate-landing.aspx.