

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

FAX MEMORANDUM

TO: Gail Morrison, Deputy Director
SC CHE

FROM: George Hynd, Provost 

DATE: May 10, 2010

RE: Program Planning Summary for Asian Studies

Please find attached the program planning summary for the Asian Studies program at the College of Charleston. Let me know if there are any questions. Thank you.

/gh

6 pgs. w/cover

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON
FOUNDED 1770

P. George Benson, President

May 6, 2010

Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Deputy Director
Academic Affairs and Licensing Division
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Morrison,

Please find enclosed for your review a program planning summary for the Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies being housed within the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. The College's exponential growth in recent decades has been accompanied by an increasingly international focus, shaped by our 1994-95 self-study during our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation, and reaffirmed by our Strategic Plan. The major in Asian Studies will play a key role in insuring that students enter a global workforce prepared to interact with and in Asia, which is home to more than half the world's population, and where developing economics are predicted to become increasingly dominant at over this century.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



/PGB

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

Major in Asian Studies
Bachelor of Arts

School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs



P. George Benson, President

May 6, 2010

Date

Contact Information:
Dr. Mary Beth Heston
hestonm@cofc.edu
(843) 953-6313

I. New Program Proposal: Major in Asian Studies. Bachelor of Arts

This is a four year undergraduate program. It is not eligible for STEM funding.

II. Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2012**III. Justification**

The College of Charleston seeks approval to establish a new Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Studies, to be housed in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. LCWA is home to the departments of German and Slavic Studies; French and Francophone Studies; Hispanic Studies; Classics; the Department of International and Intercultural Studies (including International Studies, Jewish Studies and Asian Studies); and a rich and diverse range of other area studies and cultural studies Minors (African Studies, African-American Studies, British Studies, European Studies, Japanese Studies, Italian Studies, Russian Studies).

The College of Charleston's exponential growth in recent decades has been accompanied, especially since the mid-1990s, by an increasingly international focus, shaped, first, by our 1994-95 self-study during our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation, and reaffirmed by our 2009 Strategic Plan. Goal Three of the new Strategic Plan commits "to providing students with the global and interdisciplinary perspectives necessary to address the social, economic, environmental, ethical, scientific and political issues of the 21st century." U.S. education must be strengthened to increase language skills and cultural awareness of the linguistically, culturally, politically and economically diverse regions of Asia; the US government has recognized that the development of strong area studies programs is fundamental to creating "a pool of international experts to meet national needs" (Higher Education Act of 1965, section 601(a). Central to the purpose of the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs is to develop and support robust and rigorous interdisciplinary programs with a focus on international, comparative, and intercultural studies strengthened by language training. The new Strategic Plan for the College of Charleston specifies Asian Studies as one of the interdisciplinary programs that will develop a Major.

The Major in Asian Studies will play a key role in insuring that students enter a global workforce prepared to interact with and in Asia, which is home to more than half the world's population, and where developing economies are predicted to become increasingly dominant over this century. US involvement in two wars in South and Western Asia has further brought into sharp focus the urgent need for global competencies in both foreign languages and in-depth knowledge of these world regions. The Major in Asian Studies will include intensive foreign language training; in-depth historical, cultural, international, and intercultural perspectives; and study abroad, in order to prepare students to become engaged and knowledgeable global citizens who possess the skills necessary to working in an interconnected, interdependent world.

IV. Program Demand and Productivity

Of the thirteen languages offered in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, four are housed in Asian Studies: Arabic, (Mandarin) Chinese, Hindi and

Japanese; these four Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) are also identified as Strategic Languages by the US Department of State, underscoring the national need to train citizens to attain competencies in these languages. The College of Charleston is the only institution in South Carolina to offer this range of Asian languages and to support these with a rich and flexible curriculum across disciplines involving the regions that are home to these languages. More than 300 students enroll for courses in these languages each semester. Courses that fulfill the Asian Studies Minor are taught by approximately 20 faculty in 8 departments including languages and literature, Art History, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies.

At present the College of Charleston supports interdisciplinary Minor programs in Asian Studies and Japanese Studies. Together these serve three to four dozen students each year; approximately two dozen minors graduate annually in Asian/ Japanese Studies in disciplines ranging from International Business to History, Religious Studies, Art History, English, Theatre, Economics, Political Science and others. The Asian Studies Major will provide students the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of Asia in a program of study analyzing Asian regions from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, including historical, political, and cultural, grounded in advanced language study and study abroad, and working with professors with extensive lived experience in Asian regions. Our location in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs and within the department of International and Intercultural Studies will help ensure that students gain not only in-depth study of a region but also understand that region as it interacts with other regions in world systems.

V. Program Duplication

Minors in Asian Studies have been established at Clemson University, which offers East Asian Studies, and The University of South Carolina, with strengths in Business and professional training. Coastal Carolina University has a new Asian Studies program, and offers Japanese. The College of Charleston's program in Asian Studies is distinguished by our range of languages and our depth and breadth in the Humanities, complemented by a growing expertise in Asian politics. Our strengths are in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan), China, and Japan, with particular depth and breadth - in terms of faculty - in South Asia; we have recently introduced Hindi, which can now satisfy the language requirement for General Education. Thus, the College of Charleston is poised to develop and implement a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies. We would be the first state-assisted institution in South Carolina to offer a Major in Asian Studies, thus providing South Carolina students the opportunity to develop expertise in this critically important world region.

VI. Relationship of Program to Existing Programs at Proposing Institution

The proposed Major in Asian Studies grows from the development of the Asian Studies Minor over the last ten years; as such, it is linked to and works with academic departments and schools across the institution. We anticipate overlap in enrollment and courses between students who major in Asian Studies and those who major in International Studies with a Concentration in Asia or Japan. Students in International Studies with a Concentration in Asia will take Asian Studies courses, while students in

Asian Studies will be required to take at least one course with an International Studies designation. These programs do not duplicate one another: Majors in Asian Studies will develop in-depth knowledge of a region from a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective