

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in German Studies at NC State University

Introduction

NC State University requests authorization to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in German Studies in August 2007.

Program Description

Students in the NCSU German Studies major will acquire foreign language skills at the advanced level, enabling them to function professionally in a German-speaking context. They will become proficient in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing German. They will also gain familiarity with the history and current issues of the German-speaking countries and with their respective literatures and cultures. Because students will study abroad for a minimum of one semester, they will acquire the kind of fluency and familiarity with the foreign culture that enables them to function successfully as professionals in an internationalized economy. Concentrations are planned in German Cultural Studies, German Studies and International Economics, and German Studies and German Science and Technology. Through its participation in the UNC system-wide German Studies Consortium (which shares courses via live videoconferencing), the program will offer a wider variety of courses and instructors than would otherwise be available. The program will be different from many German majors in its interdisciplinary emphasis on applications of the language in business and technology.

Program Need

International collaborations in the political and economic arenas are fast becoming the marks of success in the global environment. Students preparing for their professional lives need the opportunity to acquire cross-cultural competency. This requires training in a foreign language at a level that enables the person to interact competently and professionally. Student demand for the program is anticipated to be sufficiently strong to maintain the program. The SACS reaccreditation committee in the late 1990's suggested to NCSU that, with its strong emphasis on science and technology, it should offer additional majors in languages traditionally connected to scientific and technological areas of study.

Resources

Many resources are already in place to support this major, including courses offered in several departments and various study abroad options. A currently funded lecturer position will be converted to an assistant professor position. As noted above, the availability of courses shared through the UNC German Studies Consortium will conserve faculty and course resources that NCSU would need to otherwise obtain.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NC State University request to establish a BA in German Studies degree (CIP 05.0125) in August 2007.