Proposal Of A New Undergraduate Or Graduate Program

This document should not exceed 3-5 pages in length.

1. Proposing College / School: College of the Liberal Arts
   Department: English

2. Proposed Program Title: Linguistics Minor

3. CIP Code of Proposed Program: 16.0102
4. Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2012

5. Relationship of Proposed Program to the Auburn University Mission Statement and Strategic Plan:

   (Auburn University’s mission statement may be accessed at the following site: http://www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees/policymanual/vision_and_mission.html; Auburn University’s strategic plan may be accessed at the following site: http://ocm.auburn.edu/strategic_plan/.)

   "the University will emphasize a broad and superior undergraduate education that imparts the knowledge, skills, and values so essential to educated and responsible citizens"

   "Strengthen learning & teaching"

   The Linguistics Minor is a response to an increased interest in linguistics among the student body. The newly revised English Major has requires at least one course in Linguistics from all its majors. This minor allows students who are not English Majors to concentrate in the development of their understanding of language beyond taking just a single course, it will potentially help students in Curriculum and Instruction and Anthropology and those studying a foreign language or communications to learn the structural, historical, and socio-cultural factors that shape language.

6. Expected Program Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

   (Expected outcomes must be stated clearly and must include student learning outcomes and an assessment plan for ascertaining the extent to which the expected outcomes are achieved and for designing improvements based on analysis of assessment results.)

   The Expected Learning Outcomes are as follows:
   1). Students will become acquainted with the terminology of language study and grammatical theory;
   2). Students will learn the principles of language contact, variation, and change and variation;
   3). Students will learn how language is shaped by society, culture and individual choice;
   4). Students will learn how dialects, registers, and styles are formed.

   Examinations will measure the degree to which students obtain these objectives. As this is not a degree-granting program, we will be evaluating its role as part of our regularly scheduled program review and not with an annual assessment report.

7. Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):

   (For programs at the undergraduate level, please provide a curriculum model for the program as well as for each formal option.)

   The Linguistics Minor requires completion of 15 semester hours:

   ENGL 3110 Survey of Linguistics (3)
   ENGL 4140 Language Variation (3)
   ENGL 4150 Topics in Language Study (3)
   ENGL 5410 History of the English Language (3)
   And a fifth course selected from the following list: ENGL 3040 Technical Writing (3), ENGL 4160 Technology, Literacy, and Culture, OR ENGL 5840 Approaches to English Grammar
8. Specific Admission and/or Continuation Requirements:
The Linguistics Minor is open to all students in good standing in all Auburn University undergraduate curricula. Students must earn at least a "C" in the minor courses.

9. Existing Courses and New Courses Required:
No new courses need to be created.

10. Relationship of Proposed Program to Other Auburn University Programs:
(If "yes" for either item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)
Will the program support or be supported by other program(s) at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No
Will this program replace any existing program(s), or specializations / options / concentrations within existing program(s) at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No

11. New or Additional Resources / Resource Shifting Required:
(If "yes" for any item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)
Will additional faculty lines be required? ○ Yes ○ No
Will new or additional space (e.g.: laboratory or classroom) be required? ○ Yes ○ No
Will additional library resources be required? ○ Yes ○ No
Will additional GTA support be required? ○ Yes ○ No

Explanation of or provision for new or additional resources / explanation of program’s support or replacement of other programs:
The Linguistics Minor is composed of courses already in rotation and currently staffed by faculty in the English Department. No new resources are required.

12. Potential Duplication of Other Programs in the State:
(If the program would overlap with or duplicate a similar offering at another institution in the state, articulate the program’s necessity and/or any differences from similar programs.)
The University of Alabama, UAB, and Troy State do not offer a Linguistics Minor. Alabama offers Applied Linguistics with ESL training. This proposed minor addressed Linguistics broadly rather than in the specialized ESL context. Consequently, it would be the only such minor available in Alabama universities.

13. Collaboration With Other Institutions:
(Indicate whether or not the proposed program will -- either immediately or in the future -- involve collaboration with other post-secondary institutions. If so, provide all relevant details.)
None.

14. Distance Education:
(If Distance Education will be incorporated in the delivery of the proposed program, provide details of implementation, scope, etc.)
None
15. Documented Need for Proposed Program:

(Elaborate upon the methodology used to appropriately assess regional, state, or national need and/or student demand for program.)

Linguistics is a necessary component for the advanced study of language. This minor provides educational experiences relevant to students studying any foreign language and/or who wish to pursue careers that require an understanding of how language is learned, constructed, or transmitted. Such careers include, but are not limited to those in Anthropology, Communication and Journalism, Communication Disorders, and Curriculum and Instruction. The Minor also support students in English seeking to bolster their study in Literature, Creative or Professional Writing with an opportunity to study Language Use, History, and Variation. The revision of our undergraduate curriculum in 2010 was completed with the design to allow our students to pre-professionalize in their chosen fields. This minor can augment our three English Majors tracks (Creative Writing, Literature, and Professional Writing) as all of these share a fundamental need to understand language. This minor also allows the discipline of linguistics to be open to non-English Majors.

16. Employment Opportunities:

(Provide specific examples of employment opportunities anticipated for graduates of the proposed program.)

The minor will provide experience in understanding language and can translate into jobs that require these skills, such as ESL teaching, psychology, public relations, political science, communications, the law, and any profession which emphasizes the use of effective language or linguistic skills.