



January 18, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On October 25, 2023, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 reviewed a proposal asking that The Ohio State University recognize the Ohio Seal of Biliteracy that some high school students receive prior to enrolling at the university; this recognition would be utilized for placement purposes. The proposal was submitted by the Center for Language, Literatures and Cultures (CLLC), on behalf of the following departments: Classics, Comparative Studies, East Asian Languages and Literatures, French and Italian, Germanic Language and Cultures, Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, and Spanish and Portuguese.

As outlined in the proposal, the CLLC and the collaborating departments ask that the Ohio Seal of Biliteracy be “recognized as a waiver of the elementary and intermediate levels of the world language requirement” that exists in colleges such as Arts & Sciences. Doing so will streamline the placement process for incoming freshman who have received the Seal in high school; such students would no longer be required to take a placement exam and, instead, could enroll directly in the appropriate higher-level course.

- The waiver covers 3 semesters (1101.01-1103.01 or the equivalent) for most languages
- The waiver covers 4 semesters (1101.01-2202.01) for Spanish, and would allow eligible students to receive 3 credit-hours for SPAN 2202.01.

The proposal also would allow incoming students with a Seal of Biliteracy from other states to petition for a similar waiver. The CLLC would evaluate documentation submitted by such students and grant the waiver if the documentation demonstrates that the students have “satisf[ie]d the criteria for the Ohio Seal of Biliteracy.”

A&H Subcommittee 2 voted unanimously to approve the request with four recommendations. Those items have since been addressed by the units and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Podalsky  
Professor  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Chair, ASCC A&H Subcommittee 2