

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Russian track (1-language, 2-language), MLLI major

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Specifics (see instructions):

CURRENT:

One-Language Option (38 credits total):

9 credits: MLL 190, 230, 301
 12 credits: RUSS 301, 302, 401, 402
 2 credits from RUSS 303, 304, 403
 9 credits from MLL 270, 271, 310, 311
 3 credits elective RUSS courses at 300 or 400 level
 3 credits: RUSS 350 Complementary Russian Reading

Two-Language Option (39 credits total):

9 credits: MLL 190, 230, 301
 9 credits from RUSS 301, 302, 401, or 402
 2 credits from RUSS 303, 304, 403
 6 credits from MLL 270, 271,
 or any 300- or 400-level RUSS course
 1 credit RUSS 350
 12 credits in a second language (above 202)
 taught in the target language

NEW:

One-Language Option (43 credits total):

9 credits: MLL 190, 230, 301 (MLL core)
 10 credits: RUSS 202, 301, 302 (intermed. Russian)
 6 credits: RUSS 321, 322 (contemp. Russ. culture)
 3 credits: RUSS 332 (linguistic structure of Russian)
 6 credits: RUSS 401, 402 (advanced Russian)
 9 credits: elective RUSS courses at 300 or 400 level

Two-Language Option (42 credits total):

9 credits: MLL 190, 230, 301
 9 credits from RUSS 301, 302, 401, or 402
 6 credits: RUSS 321, 322
 6 credits: elective RUSS courses at 300 or 400 level
 12 credits in a second language (above 202)
 taught in the target language

Summary of changes:

One-Language Option:

The total number of credits increases from 38 to 43.

RUSS 202 becomes required; the language sequence through the advanced level is then: 202, 301, 302, 401, 402.

The one-credit courses, 303, 304, 403 (403, in practice, was never offered), are deleted from the program; the material of these courses (which supplemented 301, 302) is incorporated into 301, 302.

The MLL courses on Russian literature and culture, taught in English, are deleted from the program. Insofar as possible, the material of these courses is incorporated into the new offerings, RUSS 321 and 322, which are taught in Russian. As a consequence, there is no longer a need for RUSS 350, a one-credit Russian-language add-on for the English-language literature/culture courses, and this becomes deleted from the program.

RUSS 332 (Structure of Russian) goes from an elective to a required course in the new program.

The number of elective courses increases from one (3 credits total) to three (9 credits total).

Two-Language Option:

The total number of credits increases from 38 to 42.

The two-credit requirement of one-credit courses, 303, 304, 403 (in practice, the latter was never offered), are deleted from the program; the material of these courses (which supplemented 301, 302) is incorporated into 301, 302. As noted above, there is no longer a need for RUSS 350, a one-credit Russian-language add-on for the literature/culture courses.

Six credits of RUSS 321 and 322 are added to the program.

The requirement for six credits of elective RUSS courses at 300 or 400 level is maintained, but without the option of taking the English-language MLL 270, 271; again, the material of these courses is to some degree incorporated into the RUSS 321 and 322.

Rationale (see instructions):

The changes reflect first and foremost a perceived need in the program for increased student exposure to Russian at the intermediate level (essentially, 300-level courses), with particular emphasis on expanding vocabulary and consolidating proficiency in grammatical structures. Greater expansion at the intermediate level will help continuing students adjust more easily to the advanced (400) level. Anticipated personnel changes (lack of a specialist in literary theory) are also taken into consideration.

In detail:

The increase in the number of credits 38 to 43 introduces more rigor to the program and brings the Russian area more into line with other MLLI areas, for example Spanish (43).

Most students who do not intend to continue in the language will finish their GEP language requirement with RUSS 201, so RUSS 202 is a natural starting point for the intermediate sequence, and becomes required, again in line with the practice of other areas.

The one-credit courses, 303, 304, 403 (in practice, the latter was never offered) are deleted from the program; the material of these courses (which had supplemented 301 and 302) is incorporated into 301, 302. With the addition of RUSS 202 into the intermediate sequence, there is more opportunity for incorporating additional material into 301 and 302.

The MLL courses on Russian literature and culture (MLL 270, 271, 370, 371), taught in English, are deleted from the program, although they will still be available as electives. While we regret the loss of these courses, we will no longer be able to cover them due to an anticipated retirement. In addition, the old program requirement of three semesters of these English-language courses cut into exposure to Russian at the intermediate level, a critical need for our students. To the extent possible, the material of these courses will be incorporated into Russian-language courses. We will also occasionally offer a Russian-language literature course, RUSS 450 Masterpieces of Russian Literature, as an elective.

RUSS 332 (Structure of Russian) goes from an elective to a required course in the new program: this is a course on the linguistic structure of Russian, which many students have found useful in mastering some of the complex grammatical structures of the language.

Finally, the number of elective courses increases from one (3 credits total) to three (9 credits total), again giving students greater exposure to the language at the intermediate and advanced levels. We have several interesting elective courses available, among them Advanced Russian through Song, Political Russian, Russian Film, Theory and Practice of Translation, and hope to develop an advanced Russian-language course on Russian history.

It is anticipated that these changes will make for a more rigorous program, promoting more solid proficiency in the language. I will meet with the affected students individually to ensure a smooth transition in their program.