

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: MLLI Russian

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Proposed Effective Date: Beginning of catalog year 2021-22

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Specifics (see instructions):

Reduce the number of credits required for the One-language Russian concentration from 43 to 40; allow one MLL-rubric course for the required electives:

Current requirements:

43 credits:

9 credits: MLL/LING/ENGL 190, MLL/LING 230, MLL 301

10 credits: RUSS 202 (4 cr), 301 (3 cr), 302 (3 cr)

6 credits: RUSS 321 **and** RUSS 322

3 credits: RUSS 332

6 credits: RUSS 401, 402

9 credits of elective RUSS courses at the 300 or 400 level

Proposed requirements

40 credits:

no change

no change

3 credits RUSS 321 **or** RUSS 322

no change

no change

9 credits of elective RUSS courses at the 300 or 400 level;
MLL 360 may substitute for one RUSS elective

Rationale (see instructions):

The proposed reduction in credits by virtue of eliminating the need for both RUSS 321 and 322 (intermediate-level Russian culture courses taught in Russian) was prompted by the low enrollment numbers that we have been getting in these courses, to the detriment of our program, since they were introduced a few years ago. It is hoped that this change in requirements will help improve enrollments each time the courses are offered, in alternating years, and make the Russian concentration more attractive to majors in a period of declining interest in Russian (and not just at UMBC). The academic content of the RUSS 321 and 322 is also being modified (though still within the scope of the course description) in an effort to make the courses more attractive to majors while in fact increasing academic rigor. Note that the reduction in credits still falls within the credit range of the language programs in MLLI (40-43) and puts us in line with the German concentration (also 40 credits), the language program most similar to ours. The introduction of the option of MLL 360 for the electives will give students greater flexibility and would reinstate an option which we used to have before our specialist in Russian literature and culture (Dr. Elaine Rusinko) retired. The changes also address ongoing staffing issues, since the Russian area is down to two full-time faculty members.