

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER

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I. SUMMARY

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations (ALC) has submitted a program proposal to offer a Doctor of Asian Languages and Civilizations degree. This degree will offer specializations in Chinese or Japanese with concentrations in literary or cultural studies of either the pre-modern or modern periods. With the new global positioning of China and Japan, it is becoming more and more essential that a degree program exist with areas of study that will provide students with the necessary skills, knowledge and expertise for success.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the University of Colorado's proposal to offer a Doctor in Asian Languages and Civilizations.

Based on recommendations from the two most recent Program Review Panels (1998; 2001), the Self-Study Report for Program Review (2001), as well as on the continuing outstanding success of the Master of Arts programs in Chinese and Japanese, the faculty of the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations brings forward this proposal for the establishment of a PhD program in Asian Languages and Civilizations, with specializations in Chinese or Japanese. The PhD in Asian Languages and Civilizations will allow the ALC department and its programs to better serve students and faculty as well as the University and the State of Colorado.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The PhD degree in Asian Languages and Civilizations supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado, Boulder. The statutory mission states:

The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admissions standards. The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado shall offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degree programs. C.R.S. 23-20-101(a)

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND:

According to the 2002 Modern Language Association report, *Foreign Language Enrollments in United States Institutions of Higher Education*, among the fifteen

more commonly taught languages, all showed an increase in enrollments for the first time since 1968. Japanese and Chinese were included among the more commonly taught languages, in fifth and seventh place respectively. This is an increase since 1998. As of 2006, Japanese remains in fifth place among the more commonly taught languages, with Chinese moving into sixth place. The new alignment of Chinese and Japanese among the more commonly taught languages as well as the continuing growth of enrollments in Chinese and Japanese at the undergraduate level are excellent indicators of strong student demand across the country. Interest among Colorado students is similar, as undergraduate enrollments in Chinese and Japanese are strong and increasing, reflecting the national trend.

DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE

No other institutions offer a PhD program in Asian Languages and Civilizations in the State of Colorado. Currently, the master's program in Asian Languages and Civilizations is one of two that is part of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Western Regional Graduate Program exchange, which is indicative both of the quality of the program as well as the need for excellent graduate programs in the western United States

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff has reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-107. The program meets all performance measures.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the PhD in Asian Languages and Civilizations degree to be offered by the University of Colorado, Boulder.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-107

ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.