



**Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CURRICULUM REQUEST FORM

Please complete a separate request for each curriculum item being submitted. Each request should include either a WORD or PDF file of the curriculum item being reviewed. This form along with the file should be emailed to Kris Petti at pettik@uga.edu.

Date:

Department/Institute/Program:

Contact Person:

Email Address:

Curriculum Item Request:

Please provide a justification for this request:

As Department Head, you are affirming that the department procedures have been followed for approval with your unit.

Senior Associate Dean Neil Lyall

PROPOSAL FOR ACADEMIC UNIT NAME CHANGE

Date: _____

Department/Division: _____

School/College/Unit: _____

Proposed Effective Date: _____

NAME CHANGE:

Current Name: _____

Proposed Name: _____

JUSTIFICATION:

Attach a justification and rationale for the requested changes, and include any relevant documentation. If this change is in response to an accreditation body, please include that language in the proposal.

APPROVALS:

Attach documentation of approval from all involved units.

University of Georgia

Proposal for Academic Unit Name Change: Justification

July 2026

The Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies seeks to update its name to the Department of World Languages and Literatures. The rationale is five-fold.

First, departmental faculty currently instruct courses for eight different language and literature programs (see Item #5). The chosen name and structural reorganization would bring the department into alignment with a number of higher education departments/schools both in Georgia and across the United States in which multiple language and literature programs are housed together.

Second, the same faculty in the department currently teach for three separate BA programs (CMLT, Asian Languages and Literatures, Arabic), two of which are less-commonly-taught language programs. Despite frequently being taught by the same faculty, the majors are counted separately by the Registrar. These programs are relatively small; for program sustainability under increased scrutiny of graduation performance, the three programs need to be housed as tracks under a single departmental banner that also represents the diversity of the programs.

Third, student feedback has shown that the current departmental name is not viable to perform that role. The Asian Languages and Literatures BA was created because students studying Chinese, Japanese, and Korean wanted to be able to show potential employers on their transcripts that they have demonstrated competencies in a specific language and literature, thus the name “comparative literature” negatively impacted major graduation numbers. With the addition of Arabic and Hebrew to the department, this dynamic has become more pronounced.

Fourth, the department seeks to better inform the university community and undergraduate students regarding the curricula it currently instructs and manages. The Arabic Program, which, along with the Hebrew Language Minor, migrated from the Department of Religion to the CMLT Department as of AY 26-27, saw diminished enrollments because it was not easily visible for interested students, given that the Department of Religion did not maintain instruct language and literature programs. Modifying the CMLT Department’s current name will not only better signpost the existence and vitality of the current language programs housed in our department, but it will also draw attention to the department’s position as a central space for less-commonly-taught languages on campus.

Finally, the new World Languages and Literatures umbrella will better recognize the variety of languages supported in the department in addition to Comparative Literatures (Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Swahili, Vietnamese, Yoruba, along with non-degree languages including Hausa and Zulu). Treating these languages as tracks within a new World Languages and Literatures major will allow for the growth/addition of language programs that currently function as minor programs (Hebrew, Swahili, Vietnamese, Yoruba) into major programs.