

UC 12778 14S

APPROVED MAR 26 2014

M.M.

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Committee

FROM: Richard Scamell
Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee

SUBJECT: UC 12726 13F: Proposal for Italian Course Placement With Appropriate
Demonstrated Proficiency in Various Placement Tests in Italian

DATE: March 12, 2014

The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on Wednesday, March 5 to consider a proposal to award course credit for students who demonstrate language proficiency on various placement tests in the Italian Language. Participating in consideration of this proposal were subcommittee members Ognjen Miljanic, William Munson, Richard Scamell, Shishir Shah, Lesley Sisk, and Stephen Soutullo. Professor Alessandro Carrera and Monica Ercolani of the Italian Studies Program and Patrick Daniel, Executive Director, Learning and Assessment Services attended the meeting as guests.

Background Information

The goal of the proposed Italian Credit by Examination program is to facilitate placement of students in University of Houston Italian language courses. The standards for placement and credit given were set by Professor Alessandro Carrera in consultation with Patrick Daniel. These standards, including the number of credits given when a student places in any level between ITAL 1501 and ITAL 2302, conform with other established Credit by Examination programs at University of Houston (e.g., Arabic, German, French, Hindi, Spanish and Vietnamese).

As shown in Table 1, the Italian Credit by Examination program contains two options by which students may earn Italian test score credit.

1. Their performance on the Italian Language Advanced Placement exam (AP) while in high school.
2. Successful Italian coursework completion in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program while in high school.

Also shown in Table 1 are two ways in which students may use credits earned in the Italian Credit by Exam program.

1. Toward their college language requirement--typically six hours at the sophomore level (ITAL 2301 and ITAL 2302).
2. Toward credit hour requirements for their degree programs as applicable.

Table 1
Conversion Table For Test Scores, UH Course Credit and UH Course Placement

IB Level (1-7)	AP Level (1-5)	UH Course Credit	Placement
Standard Level 4 Plus Diploma		ITAL 1501 (5 credits)	ITAL 1502
Standard Level 5 Plus Diploma Or High Level 4	3	ITAL 1501, 1502 (10 credits) or ITAL 1601 (6 credits)	ITAL 2301
Standard Level 6 Plus Diploma Or High Level 5	4	ITAL (1501, 1502, 2301 (13 credits) or ITAL 1601, 2301 (9 credits)	ITAL 2302
Standard Level 7 Plus Diploma Or High Level 6/7	5	ITAL 1501, 1502, 2301, 2302 (13 credits capped)* or ITAL 1601, 2301, 2302 (12 credits)	ITAL 3303

In order for students receiving a high test score in Italian to not qualify for course credit that exceeds that offered in other languages, a cap of 13 credit hours has been established (i.e., students whose placement is in ITAL 3303 will only receive a total of 13 credit hours). It is expected, however, that most students will end up being placed in ITAL 2302 or below. Thus the need to actually cap the credit hours earned at 13 is expected to be rare.

The proposed Italian Credit by Examination program encourages the retention and graduation of students who wish to study Italian, because it affords them the possibility of getting credit for prior knowledge of Italian. In other words students can complete the Italian language college or degree requirements faster and more efficiently.

Recommendation

The Subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of UC 12726 13F as revised.

* Reflects a modification made to UC 12726 13F.