



March 26, 2018

TO: Deans ( [dc-and-assts@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:dc-and-assts@lists.wisc.edu) )  
School/College Curricular Contacts ( [curriculum\\_coordinators@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:curriculum_coordinators@lists.wisc.edu) )

FROM: Jocelyn Milner, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
Director of Academic Planning and Instructional Research

RE: Revised Foreign Language Course Attribute - Approval and Implementation Steps

I am writing with information about revisions to the Foreign Language Course Attribute. This change is of most interest to colleagues in Letters & Science, and will also be relevant to other academic programs that include language courses.

On April 28, 2017 the University Curriculum Committee approved a provisional proposal to create a course attribute for foreign language courses; that is, courses that focus on the study of non-English systems of human communication that include grammar (morphology and syntax), phonology, and vocabulary necessary for oral and/or written communication. This attribute makes it easier for students to find courses that meet foreign language requirements. It will also facilitate communication with the broad range of interested non-student stakeholders (e.g., degree audit programmers, advisors in departments and student service units, data analysts).

On March 1, 2018, the University Curriculum Committee approved a revision to the provisional policy that includes a definition for courses that have the Level 5+ value and to add a linkage with the College of Letters and Science Retroactive Credit Policy. Courses with a foreign language course attribute of 2 – 5 are also eligible to award retroactive credits (“retro-credits”) that grant credit for previous language study when students complete an appropriate course at the University with a grade of B or higher.

### **Implementation steps**

Representatives from Letters & Science, Academic Planning and Institutional Research, and the Office of the Registrar will work together to develop a list of courses that will have the Level 5+ attribute value and will apply the attribute to current courses and courses offered within the past 10 years that meet the criteria. The list of courses currently being used for awarding retro credits will be reviewed and updated as necessary to align with the list of courses with the foreign language course attribute. These actions in addition to those already taken during the initial implementation of the attribute (including the attribute in the Guide, Course Guide, DARS and the course proposal system) will complete the full implementation of the policy. Letters & Science, as the college that primarily offers foreign language courses, plays a significant role in determining which courses will have the foreign language attribute; however the attribute is available for use by all undergraduate schools and colleges.

This memo, the full policy, information about implementation and a list of courses that will have the attribute are available at: <https://kb.wisc.edu/vesta/page.php?id=73418>

Please let Michelle Young ([michelle.young@wisc.edu](mailto:michelle.young@wisc.edu)) or me know if you have any questions.

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