

Resolution 2019-2020.M
Resolution to Approve New Major, Arabic, in Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

December 9, 2019

First Reading:

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Summer 2020

First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2022

WHEREAS, the Major in Arabic will provide Virginia Tech students the linguistic and cultural knowledge necessary for working in various capacities within the U.S. government, such as Foreign Service officers, FBI agents, CIA linguists and analysts and would make students more marketable in other fields such as Journalism, Translation, Petroleum Engineering, Teaching and Research, Consultancy, and International Development; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Arabic at Virginia Tech will attract more in-state and out-of-state high school graduates interested in the ROTC program since the students will have an opportunity to combine military training with a chance to develop an understanding of the diverse cultures of the Arab world; and

WHEREAS, the number of students who are studying Arabic and obtaining a Minor in Arabic continues to increase, indicating a strong interest in the study of Arabic language and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Arabic would contribute to the mission of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures in enhancing linguistic and cultural knowledge and would better align the department with our peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Arabic faculty has grown from two part-time instructors to two tenure-track faculty members, one full-time instructor, and two part-time instructors, who are trained in the best practices for teaching Arabic; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Arabic will provide for more curricular flexibility and specialization within the department and college, as well as participation in cross-disciplinary curricular initiatives across the university.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Major in Arabic be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages effective Summer 2020 and the proposal forwarded through University governance and to the President for approval.