

**Proposal to Discontinue  
Academic Minor in Portuguese**

**1. Proposal submitted by:**

Department of World Languages and Cultures  
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**2. Program to be discontinued:** Academic minor in Portuguese**3. Administrating Unit:** Department of World Languages and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**4. Rationale for discontinuation:**

The faculty in the Department of World Languages and Literatures voted in spring 2006 to discontinue the academic minor in Portuguese because of *the department's inability to sustain a solid Portuguese program*, both in fiscal terms as well as in faculty FTE. Low enrollment in Portuguese courses and very low enrollment in the minor program has led us to redirect our resources to other curricular areas with increasing enrollments, for example, Spanish. As mentioned, the limited student interest in the Portuguese minor is compounded by only .5 faculty FTE fully devoted to development of and instruction in the program. The curriculum required for the Portuguese minor has not been fully offered since 2000. With this proposal we ask that this informal discontinuation of the program now be made formal.

**5. Availability of similar programs at other Regent's institutions:**

The University of Iowa offers an academic major and minor in Portuguese. The University of Northern Iowa offers an academic minor in Portuguese.

**6. Enrollment data for current and previous four years:**

Since 2000, enrollment in Portuguese courses has been low. As the department has struggled to meet growing enrollment demand in other curricular areas, most notably Spanish, it has had to limit resources previously devoted to low enrollment courses. In 2002-2003, no Portuguese courses were offered at any level. Enrollment data for the current and past two years show that student demand is limited:

Fall 2004	Port 101	11 students
	Port 111x	16 students
Spring 2005	Port 102	6 students
	Port 112x	4 students
	Port 370	7 students

Fall 2005	Port 111x	20 students
Spring 2006	Port 112x	11 students
	Port 320x	4 students (decision made to cancel)
Fall 2006	Port 111	20 students
Spring 2007	Port 112	10 students* (as of 11/6/06)

We have been unable to offer the 200- and 300- level courses taught in Portuguese that are required to fulfill a minor. We provide here data obtained from ISU Institutional Research on numbers of students completing the minor in Portuguese since 2000:

CY 2000	1 student
CY 2001	0 student
CY 2002	0 student
CY 2003	2 student
CY 2004	0 student
CY 2005	0 student
CY 2006	0 student

Only three students have graduated with a minor in Portuguese since 2000 because the department's inability to offer required courses.

#### 7. Information required by the Board of Regents:

- a) **A survey of students currently enrolled in a program to determine the impact of the discontinuance on their academic plans. The survey should attempt to identify students who wish (i) to complete the program; (ii) to transfer to other programs at the same institution; and (iii) to leave the institution.**

No students currently enrolled in Portuguese minor.

- b) **On the basis of the data collected, a projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs in order to maintain program quality, and both a time frame for, and the costs of, program phase-out.**

Because there are no students currently enrolled, no faculty are needed to phase out minor program.

- c) **A description of the amount of money, if any, that would become available for redirection under the institution's strategic plan as a result of the discontinuance of a program.**

No funding will become available because no funding is currently directed to this program.

- d) **Impact of program discontinuation on other programs offered by and the overall mission of the institution:**

The impact that the discontinuation of the Portuguese minor will have on other academic programs and the university's mission regarding internationalization is minimal. Students seeking course work in modern foreign languages or cultures, or in Latin American Studies have a range of world language programs from which to choose. Furthermore, the LAS Program in Latin American Studies, in conjunction with the Department of World Languages and Cultures, has developed an Undergraduate Certificate Program in Latin American Studies which will require one year of study of Portuguese language. This Certificate program will preserve availability of Portuguese language study at ISU through the elementary level, and will incorporate some courses on Luso-Portuguese-related topics, depending on student demand.

e) **Impact on minorities and on women:**

None.

f) **Potential faculty and staff reductions or reassignments resulting from discontinuance:**

There has never been more than .5 faculty FTE dedicated to the Portuguese program. The assistant professor of Spanish who has been leading the Portuguese program will continue to teach language courses in Portuguese as enrollment demands, but will focus her teaching duties more in the area of Spanish language and Latin American literature and culture. Her PRS has been rewritten to reflect these changes.

g) **Existing facilities and equipment freed by the discontinuance:**

No facilities or equipment are dedicated to the Portuguese minor program.