

PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. School/College: **Franklin College of Arts and Sciences**

2. Department/Division: **Comparative Literature/ Humanities**

3. Proposed Program: **Vietnamese Language and Literature Minor**

4. Proposed Starting Date for Program: **Fall 2017**

5. Program Descriptions - including prefixes, numbers, and titles of required courses, total credit hours (must be 15-18 hours), residency requirements (if any), and grade requirements (if any):

See attached

Signatures:

	<i>CMLT</i>	<i>3-14-2016</i>
Department Head	Department	Date
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School/College Curriculum Committee Chair	School/College	Date
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Dean	School/College	Date
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University Curriculum Committee Chair		Date

- Only four universities in the Southeast, including the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, the University of New Orleans, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, apparently have Vietnamese language programs. According to our Internet research, however, the presence of those programs on those school websites is minimal if any, and we assume that their size is small if they exist.
- Currently, a minor in Vietnamese is offered only at California State University, Fullerton: <http://ed.fullerton.edu/vietnamese/>
- Meanwhile, mainly due to postwar immigration and US-born offspring, the Vietnamese population has seen a dramatic increase in the past few decades. The number of 2013 Vietnamese population in Georgia alone is 52,866 as the sixth largest among all the states, while its national aggregate amounts to 1,724,508, according to <http://vietv.com/10-vietnamese-population-united-states.html>.
- As a result, there is a strong demand for a Vietnamese minor from students who want to utilize it for their careers as bilingual professionals, such as those who plan to work with Vietnamese patients and their community in the medical field, as well as from their parents who want to see an official proof of their children's accomplishments in Vietnamese proficiency for the continuation of their cultural heritage in the United States.
- In addition, to have the minor program in place will enhance the Vietnamese language program, in terms of the planned exchange program with a counterpart institution in Vietnam. This is because Vietnamese families tend to choose and trust a school abroad with a full-fledged language program to send their children to.
- The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), with Crystal Le cnle95@uga.edu as current president, promotes the Vietnamese culture and the collegiality of approximately 60 members at UGA. Another student organization that focuses on speaking the language is in its planning stage.
- Overall, to create a Vietnamese minor program will be a pioneering project on a national level. As such, once realized, it will help attract to the University of Georgia more students interested in Vietnam, especially Vietnamese-American students who take their cultural heritage seriously. When they graduate, they will become US assets to strengthen the tie between Vietnam and the United States that has steadily been growing economically and geopolitically.