

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES

## Program Description

The Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies (SLS) is a joint venture of the three Ph.D. granting language departments: German, Russian & East European Studies, French & Italian, Spanish & Portuguese.

This certificate program addresses current market demands for expertise in second language acquisition and pedagogy, curriculum design and innovation, instructional technologies, coordination of the language program, assessment, and supervision of graduate TAs. The courses and professional development offered through this certificate program engage graduate students in critical reflection about current research in second language acquisition and foreign language teaching, ultimately enhancing their ability to develop as teachers and succeed in a competitive job market.

## Application Requirements

Acceptance to the program requires the approval of the student's primary adviser and the Director of the Certificate Program in Second Language Studies. Students in other Vanderbilt University graduate programs who have an interest in second language studies are welcome to apply for admission to the Certificate Program.

Once students have gotten the requisite approval, they must complete an "Intent to Enroll" form signed by the student, the director of the SLS Certificate Program, and the Director of Graduate Studies for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form must be submitted to the Graduate School, to the University Registrar's Office (URO), and to the SLS program administrator.

## Program requirements

### 1. Course work

Completion of at least 12 credit hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

#### Required courses:

SLS 6030 (Foreign Language Learning and Teaching)

SLS 7040 (Second Language Acquisition: Current Theories and Research)

#### A minimum of 6 credit hours from the following list of courses:

SLS 8090 (Special topics in Second Language Studies)

FREN 7050 (Applied French Linguistics)

EDUC 6020 (Culturally Responsive Pedagogy)

EDUC 6310 (Classroom Ecology)

EDUC 6520 (Foundations for ELL Education)

EDUC 6530 (Educational Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition)

EDUC 6570 (Teaching Second Language Literacy)

PSY-GS 8360 (Human Cognition)

PSY-GS 8480 (Educational Neuroscience)

PSY-GS 8858 (Introduction to Statistical Inference)

\* Courses successfully completed prior to admission to the program may be counted with the approval of the Director of the SLS certificate program. Students may seek approval from the director include other relevant courses offered at Vanderbilt.

## 2. Professional development

Completion of at least **two** of the professional development workshops offered through the Center for Second Language Studies during the fall and spring semesters.

Sample professional development seminars:

- i) The teaching portfolio: statement of teaching, teaching video, web presence
- ii) Language program direction: curriculum design, assessment, TA supervision
- iii) Digital technologies and online courses
- iv) Teaching language for special purposes: medicine, business, law

### Assessment:

- Students must attend all sessions of the workshops they choose.
- Students must develop an action plan demonstrating ability to put workshop theme into practice (lesson plan, implementation strategy, video, etc.). Students must upload the action plan to Brightspace for review no more than 4 weeks after participating in the workshop.

## 3. Additional teaching experience

Completion of at least **one** of the following programs:

- i) Work as a teaching assistant or teaching apprentice in a class designed for undergraduate minors and/or majors. The work should include consulting with the professor on syllabus design, attending classes, and teaching 1 or 2 units. \*\*Before undertaking any kind of teaching assistant work, students must obtain permission from the director of the certificate program.
- ii) The Certificate in College Teaching (CICT) offered by the Center for Teaching. This program is non-credit bearing and involves general orientation to college teaching, instructor authority, and diversity.
- iii) The Certificate in College Humanities Teaching and Learning (CHTL) offered by the Center for Teaching. This program is non-credit bearing and involves developing an understanding of larger issues related to teaching in different institutional contexts.

### Assessment:

- Upon completion of the teaching experience, the student must write a 3-5 page reflection paper, signed by the supervising instructor. The reflection paper must be uploaded to the Brightspace site no more than 4 weeks after finishing the project.
- Students who choose to complete the CICT or the CHTL through the Center for Teaching must scan and upload the certificate to the Brightspace site.

## 4. Final presentation

Upon completion of the requirements for the Certificate Program in SLS, each student will give a 30-40minute presentation in the Center for Second Language Studies demonstrating an ability to engage thoughtfully and reflectively about second/foreign language learning and teaching. The Director of the certificate program and at least three SLS faculty members will attend the presentation to assess the student's expertise in foundational concepts in second language acquisition and classroom teaching.

## **Assessment Procedures**

A dedicated **Brightspace** site for the SLS Certificate Program will serve to store and disseminate materials. Each student enrolled in the program will have a folder in the Brightspace site where s/he can upload action plans, reflections, and presentations for review by the faculty.

The affiliated faculty will perform ongoing reviews of all students' work and serve in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Graduate Certificate in SLS regarding individual student's progress. Upon termination of the required work for the certificate, the Director will assign a Pass or Fail grade.

A Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies will be awarded with either the M.A. or Ph.D. degree upon fulfillment of all requirements as outlined.

## **Program administration**

### **Director of the Second Language Studies Graduate Certificate Program:**

Virginia M. Scott, Professor of French & Applied Linguistics

### **Affiliated / advisory faculty:**

Daniela D'Eugenio, Senior Lecturer in Italian

Stacey Johnson, Assistant Director, the Center for Teaching; Senior Lecturer in Spanish

Carolina Palacios, Senior Lecturer in Spanish

Rebecca Peterson, Lecturer in French; Lecturer in Teaching & Learning

Elyse Petit, Senior Lecturer in French, French Language Program Coordinator

Nathalie D. Porter, Director, Center for Second Language Studies; Principal Senior Lecturer in French

Silke Schade, Senior Lecturer in German; German Language Program Coordinator

**CERTIFICATE IN SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES  
CHECK SHEET**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree program: \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE WORK**

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTRUCTOR	SEMESTER	GRADE

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR(S)	SEMESTER

**ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE** (Description / name of supervising instructor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL PRESENTATION**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE**      Pass \_\_\_\_\_      Fail \_\_\_\_\_

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Director of Graduate Studies in candidate's discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of SLS Certificate program: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_